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FOR LESBIAN/GAY
LIBERATION

THE BODY *Politics*

N° 133
DECEMBER 1986
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THE BODY Politic

"The liberation of homosexuals can only be the work of homosexuals themselves."
• Kurt Hiller, 1921

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Design & Art Direction

Ian King and Dale Bolívar
Format by Rick Bébout and Robyn Lake

Canadian News & Network

Ken Popert (coordinator); Tony Johnston, Andrew Lesk, Lynne MacFie, Robbie Pennant, Grant Ramsay, Ric Taylor, Richard Vassalo (news group); Vancouver: Ken Anderlini, Daniel Collins, Rob Joyce, Don Larventz, Stan Persky; Edmonton: Jeff Winkelaar; Halifax: Elizabeth Bosma, Robin Metcalfe; Kitchener/Waterloo: Joe Szalai; Ottawa: Blair Johnston; St Catharines: Kenn Chaplin; Victoria: Jack Hagenaars; Windsor: Jim Monk; Winnipeg: Ted Millward

World News

Charles Phillips (coordinator), Chris Bearchell, Tim McCaskell; Mark Bagshaw (London), Thom Chu (New York City), Kendall Lovett (Sydney), Diana van Oort (Amsterdam), Olav Wendelborg (Oslo)

Reviews, Features, Letters, Columns,

Gerald Hannon (coordinator); John Allec, Rick Archbold, Chris Bearchell, Rick Bébout, Corrie Campbell, Glen Cassie, Alex Gilatis, Doug Grenville, Thomas Jarvis, Jeff Kirby, Thomas Andrew Keith, Andrew Lesk, Stephen MacDonald, Craig Patterson, Joy Parks, Irit Shimrat, Anna Marie Smith, Richard Summerbell, Jeremy Tomlinson, Michael Totzke

Layout & Production

Dale Bolívar and Ian King (coordinators); Dale Barrett, Chris Bearchell, Peter Bernier, Tony Brouwer, Corrie Campbell, Paul Hackney, April Hubert, Floyd Hutton, Thomas Andrew Keith, Jeff Kirby, Chris Lea, Jim Leahy, Andrew Lesk, Allyson McLaughlin, Gerald Paige, Kary Rasmussen, Richard Ryder, Irit Shimrat, Mike Stoel, Michael Totzke, Richard Vassalo, Art Wood and members and friends of the collective.
Printing: Metroland, 30 Main St, Georgetown ON L7G 3G4

Display Advertising

Hollie Devlin (coordinator); Brian Flint, Doug Grenville, Jeff Woods

Classified Advertising

Andrew Lesk (coordinator); April Hubert, Floyd Hutton, Paul Lee, Kary Rasmussen, Richard Ryder

Subscriptions & Promotion

Hollie Devlin (coordinator); Peter Balogh, Gerald Hannon, Detlef Karthaus, Richard Ryder

Distribution

Hollie Devlin (coordinator); Kym Bessette, Robert Jesson, Ken Popert, Maureen Phillips, Kary Rasmussen, Robert Trow

Office staff

Dale Bolívar, Hollie Devlin, Gerald Hannon, Andrew Lesk, Ken Popert
Brad Candy, John Flack, Evan Harris, David Rayside, Ken West

The Body Politic is published monthly by Pink Triangle Press, a non-profit corporation, as a contribution to the building of the gay movement and the growth of gay consciousness. Responsibility for the content of The Body Politic rests with the Body Politic Collective, an autonomous body operating within Pink Triangle Press.

Membership in the collective indicates general agreement with the political goals and editorial direction of The Body Politic but not necessarily agreement with all policies the collective enacts.

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Second Class Mail Registration No 3245

United States Second Class Postage paid at Lewiston, NY. US Postmaster: send address changes to The Body Politic, Box 255, Lewiston NY 14092.

Second-class subscription rates for one year are \$24.95 CN in Canada; \$24.95 US for the US and overseas.

Available on microfilm from: MacLaren Micropublishing, Box 972, Stn F, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2N9

Offices of The Body Politic are located at 54 Wolsley St, Suite 300, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1A5.

Mailing address: The Body Politic, Box 7289, Stn A Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1X9. • Phone (416) 364-6320

Display Advertising deadlines:

For the January 1986 issue,
Wednesday, December 3

For the February 1987 issue,
Wednesday, January 7

The Body Politic is a member of the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario, the International Lesbian and Gay Association, the International Lesbian Information Service, and the Canadian Periodical Publishers' Association

The Body Politic is indexed regularly in the Alternative Press Index, Box 33109, Baltimore, MD 21218-0401 USA

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The cover: Santa's workshop by photographer David Blair; inset from the Healthy Sex Calendar, 1986, by Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York. Happy with dildo-toting Chris Bearchell as Santa we have, clockwise from lower left, David Verschagin, Chris Lea, Hollie Devlin and Konnie Reich. Cover design by Dale Bolívar and Ian King.

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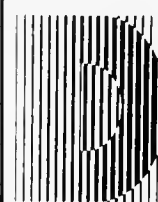
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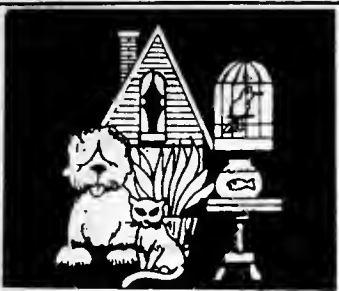


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Now or never

The pressure is building on gay rights — for and against.

We've always known that right-wing forces across North America feared and hated homosexuality. We've expected religious fundamentalists to condemn any move to entrench gay rights. So it has been no surprise that proposals to amend human rights codes in Ontario and Manitoba have faced a lot of opposition.

What is striking is the sheer volume of resources thrown into the battle by opponents of equality rights. In Ontario, something called the Coalition for Family Values has been formed especially to fight Bill 7 (which includes an amendment to the human rights code to prohibit discrimination against lesbians and gay men). That Coalition includes the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, REALwomen of Canada, several evangelical groups, and the National Citizens' Coalition. It has become clear in the last month or so that those organizations are prepared to pull out all the stops to oppose the amendment. Catholic priests have denounced Bill 7 from the pulpit; whole shows on "Christian" television have encouraged listeners to write and phone the Legislature; elaborate mailings have been dropped at each and every household in some areas of the province.

What they are saying is enough to make your eyebrows curl. "Homosexuality is one of the gravest threats to society in the last two decades of the twentieth century," intones a pamphlet by REALwomen. The homosexual movement, they claim, aims to seduce the young. "Many homosexuals, because they cannot procreate, must recruit — often the young." The Coalition for Family Values literature is subtler in tone, but just beneath the surface lie the familiar stereotypes about child molestation and violence.

A lot of people are paying attention to these arguments. They may represent a minority voice, but they have been writing a great many letters and making a lot of telephone calls to MPPs. Just to give you an idea of the volume, the Ontario NDP leader's office has received 2,000 letters in opposition to Bill 7; in one recent week, the office received 100 telephone calls a day. MPPs visiting their ridings on weekends have been besieged by mail and calls.

This sort of opposition is the perverse result of a grass-roots mobilization. The power of this type of coalition is based on the financial resources of organizations like the National Citizens' Coalition, and the highly-committed, local networks of those religious denominations that are active in this fight. This kind of mobilizing makes politicians in Ontario and Manitoba nervous, and we have to do some mobilizing of our own.

Grass-roots organizing has been at the core of gay rights activism for a decade and a half, and it's time for us to pull out all the stops. A lot of work is already being done. The Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario and the Right to Privacy Committee, which have, until recently, been conducting a low-key lobbying effort, have now launched a very public campaign encouraging gay and straight supporters of Bill 7 to phone and write their MPPs. Supportive organizations (labour unions, women's groups, civil liberties groups) are being asked to declare their support publicly. A large rally is being planned in Toronto for November 20 (8pm at St Lawrence Market). Hundreds and hundreds of phone calls and letters have already been sent; many many more are being generated.

But that is not enough. Each one of us has to take responsibility for doing what we can to let our provincial governments — and the federal government — know that we want equality now. Manitobans must let their MLAs know where they stand. And it is especially important for Ontarians to let Queen's Park know how we feel, since Bill 7 could come before the Legislature any time. They should write their local MPPs, Attorney-General Ian Scott, and Premier Peterson. In Ontario at least, this is our best chance ever.

Even if you've never engaged in a political act before, write a letter; tell a friend to write a letter, and ask that friend to tell someone else to do the same. Spread the word; add your voice to the fight for your rights.

David Rayside, for the Collective •

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Tim McCaskell. After 12 years of association with TBP, 9 years of them coordinating international news, Tim McCaskell has retired from the Collective. Throughout that time, Tim brought to the magazine deep connections to this country's immigrant communities and to the Third World, and a deep commitment to social change. He has always been a convincing debater at the Collective table, and a powerful public

speaker against racism and homophobia. With the energy of a workhorse, he helped create and sustain the international vision that gives TBP much of its flavour and reputation. He added grace and charm and skill and conviction to our efforts. We all thank him, and we will miss him.

Charles Phillips has courageously volunteered to fill Tim's shoes at International News; we wish him well.

DR •

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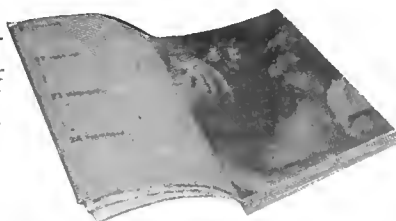
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A world where any "portrayals or depictions of the act of buggery" — simple assfucking — are automatically considered to be obscene. Obscene even if they appear in a book like the second edition of Jack Morin's *Anal Pleasure and Health*, which includes valuable information on safe sex to avoid AIDS. The first edition of that book — full of "buggery" but without AIDS-prevention advice — had also been available in Canada for years. The updated safe-sex edition was banned by Canada Customs in October.

It's a world where normal, healthy parts of our sex lives are "immoral," "Indecent," "Obscene."

We don't want to live in the world according to Canada Customs. And we don't think you do, either.

We're the Canadian Committee Against Customs Censorship. We're going to court in January 1987 to challenge the Customs ban of *The Joy of Gay Sex*. We're calling for the repeal of Section 99201-1 of the Customs Tariff. And we want to get rid of guidelines that define ordinary aspects of gay sex as obscene.

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L E T T E R S

Smell the coffee

I have just read Eilert Frerichs's article, *High Anglican, Low Blow*, in the October '86 issue of *The Body Politic*.

Thanks for your observations on such "respected" authors as James Reed and Phyllis Creighton. How utterly boring these two persons are. Has anyone read Dr Sylvia Pennington's book recently? Now there is an intelligent gal who has taken the time and effort to properly analyze the Bible by citing the Scriptures in full and explaining their true meanings.

Most of what we read these days from "appropriately trained professionals" is typical of those who "write" so much but who often have the least to "say." I am up to here in weariness of it all.

"Wake up and smell the coffee" is a good by-line for the '80s. Homosexuality is a fact of life — from the beginning of life itself. Such biological differences in human preferences have always been and will continue to be and no one will ever really know why. The rationale of this fact remains in the exclusive possession of our Creator and only He will decide when He wants to share His secret with us.

Meanwhile, let's stop writing about it and get on with the acceptance of it. There are numerous mysteries of life which will never be fully explained but which we must accept through faith.

The United Church of Canada's task force report on the ordination of homosexuals was read with great interest. The one conclusion from their report says it well and says it all — being gay is a "given" and not a "choice."

Allen

Saint John, NB

TBP and porn reviews

"The opening sequence sets the mood for the rest of the video as these hot'n'horny studs go at it from every imaginable angle possible. Believe me, with this one you won't be holding a limp dick, but a wad of cream...."

An amusing review, typical of any of the large variety available on the equally large variety of gay male erotic videos, produced by the mainstream backers in the States. A video to be purchased at your local video retailer — if you live in the States — or from the mail (male?) order section of the glossy gay male erotic magazines.

Or, sorry, should I be classing these magazines as pornography, not erotica, and therefore the videos as well? Mega-bucks exploiting the performers, actors, models (hustlers?) for your titillation. I don't know; I'm not really up on correct dictionary definitions.

Either way — erotica or pornography — these videos have only one "real" purpose — "to titillate, make you hot, turn you on, make you cream." The video — a usually very weak storyline, if any — an adequate soundtrack, whatever is in the musical mainstream during production — and let's not forget the lousy, no, atrocious acting. Of course, the men are "ideally" great looking. They're hot, and let's not forget their gargantuan cocks.

Let's face it, Johnny "12 1/2 inches" Harden will never be playing Hamlet, unless it's the video version, without Ophelia. But, the video was never meant to be Oscar material. And so, these romping sexual antics are captured on video —

from any number of angles — and the reviews appear in the familiar *Torso*, *Mandate*, *In Touch*, *Blueboy*... that is, of course, if the magazines haven't been confiscated at the Canadian border. These are the magazines in which we expect to find such reviews.

We never see erotic (porn?) video reviews in *The Body Politic*. I've always assumed the reason for this was perhaps an unwritten Collective policy which frowns on this sort of feature — porn-related material — and leaves it to the glossies south of the border. Well, never seen, till now.

There's a new kid on the block — lesbian porn (erotica?) — and they're getting into the video market. Though not big yet — hey, the ground has just been broken — the potential is no doubt there as the clout increases. You know, supply and demand.

Which brings me to the spark which set off this verbal spewage. I was humoured by the review given to one such lesbian video by Gillian Rodgers in the September issue of TBP.

First of all, it's a porn review, which shatters my theory of the unwritten policy the Collective adhered to. Then again, lesbian erotic videos, being relatively new, could be classified as newsworthy. After all, gay male videos seem to pop up daily and could hardly be considered news. Nevertheless, it was surprising to see Rodgers's review in *The Body Politic* — in a section devoted to its reviews of books, film and theatre. Which brings me to my second thought.

If I may be so bold, I'm going to equate the inherent purpose of this video with its gay male counterpart, that is, "to titillate, make you hot, turn you on, make you cream." Rodgers appears to indicate it succeeds in doing that. But there's a big difference between this review and one of its male counterpart. I read Rodgers's critique as if she were referring to material up for submission at Cannes. Perhaps the fact that the acting is "nervous and a bit stilted" isn't a concern. Maybe the "stars" are simply there because of their "fleshy tits and juicy cunts" — I can't believe I said that! But hell, let's not forget Johnny's gargantuan cock.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not against seeing Rodgers's review in *The Body Politic*, nor is her approach to the video necessarily improper. Perhaps with such critiques we can begin to expect better material from its producers.

Perhaps there's space for reviews of gay male porn in *The Body Politic*, or perhaps Gillian Rodgers should approach her review with the umphh! some lesbian readers may want to hear.

Gregory A Wight
Toronto

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Bishop John O'Mara, chairman
Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops
Toronto

I am dismayed by the Ontario bishops' opposition to that part of Bill 7 which would add sexual orientation to the list of prohibited grounds for discrimination in Ontario's Human Rights Code.

You are leaders in the Christian tradition, presumably committed to justice and charity. I do not quarrel with the Church's right to teach the people or to intervene in matters of public justice, and I have frequently welcomed statements such as those you and other bishops have made with

continued on page 9



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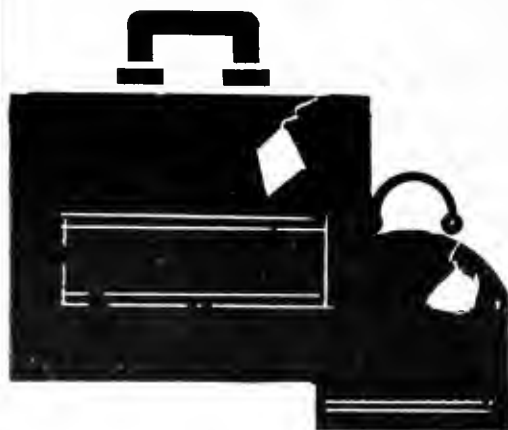


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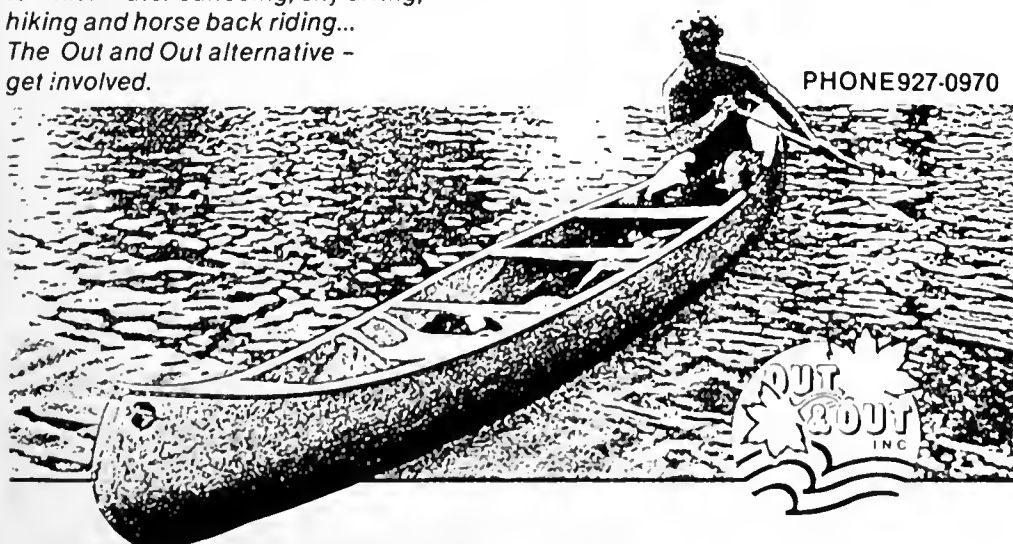
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continued from page 7

regard to social justice, peace, developing countries and the Canadian economic crisis. I support those statements not because they are made by bishops and therefore must be true, but because their truth is derived from centuries of struggle and dialogue and human experience, and because their truth is informed by a combination of contemporary insight and ancient wisdom.

It therefore grieves me to have to say this, but it should be obvious to you that the human rights of gay and lesbian people are as inviolable as the rights of any other group.

I am white, male and gay; my faith is Catholic. I grew up in British Columbia, but live in Toronto. All of these things are integral to my being, but only one of them could cost me my home and my job. I therefore welcomed the introduction of this legislation. I realize that Bill 7 won't provide me with any automatic security or wider public acceptance; it is merely a piece of legislation. Its passage is one goal of the gay community, but we know that it alone will not end prejudice or discrimination; it will, however, provide some recourse to those who become victims of prejudice and discrimination.

I think that we Catholics need to situate ourselves in this discussion in the light of our call as followers of Jesus to be in the world, to see it as it is, and to transform it by loving it. We have learned to do this in our approach to many justice questions; as a church community we have yet to do it in the area of sexual questions.

I say that to love is a type of language, and that we speak of love in a certain way, a way that is determined in part by our social context. Clearly, the predominant language of love in our culture is heterosexual. But what does this say to those of us whose sexual language is not heterosexual? Why doesn't the church listen to what gay men and lesbians (and women generally) say about their sexuality and their bodies? Why do we not see that the same structures which oppress and exclude the poor (traditional notions of order, for example — that the existing order is the ordained order) also oppress and exclude sexual minorities?

Until recently, the prevailing Catholic view was that homosexuality was a deliberate and immoral choice made by certain people. Responding to what homosexual people say about themselves and what psychologists say about homosexual people, Pope John Paul II during his 1979 visit to the United States said there are "constitutional" homosexuals — people who find they have a natural preference for members of their own sex.

This was a discernable and welcome shift in official Church teaching. Unfortunately, your statement on Bill 7 leaves the impression that you think gay and lesbian people still deliberately and immorally choose homosexuality, and that, as you put it, "any law that leaves a door open to such a lifestyle will cause great harm to society." This is utter nonsense. People are gay, lesbian or straight in spite of laws, not because of them.

You also repeat the unfounded fear that homosexuality contributes to the breakdown of family life. I am not against families; I am a member of one myself. I do believe that negative social attitudes toward gay and lesbian people encourage some homosexual individuals to enter heterosexual marriages, many of which later end in divorce and much pain for all concerned. I think that it is the rejection of gay and lesbian people which contributes more to the disintegration of family life.

Some of us who are gay or lesbian have children; some of us live with our partners and their

children; some of us have been separated from our children by laws that Bill 7 might help break down. Those of us with families try at least as hard as heterosexuals to be loving, responsible parents.

I understand (although I do not sustain it) the Church's normative teaching that "homosexual behaviour or life-style is contrary to Christian morality" (your phrase). But I do not see that this legislation has anything to do with behaviour or lifestyle; it has everything to do with housing, food, and income. I do not see any theological or historical reason why the Church should place gay and lesbian people outside its concern for justice.

While the content of your statement embarrassed and angered me, I was also furious that you presumed (yet again) to take a public stand on inclusion of gay and lesbian people in human rights legislation without any process of consultation, discussion or investigation with your Catholic people and the gay and lesbian people among them. You are shepherds who do not know your flock; you are with those who bind up heavy loads for others to carry while you do not lift a finger to help with the burden (Matthew 23:4). If you have any concern at all for the pastoral needs of gay and lesbian Catholics, you will have to recognize us first as human beings, people of God, with rights and responsibilities — the same as anyone else.

Jim Hodgson
Toronto

*The Honourable Gordon Taylor, MP (Bow River)
House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6*

I am enclosing a front-page story from yesterday's Globe and Mail in which you are quoted as having repeatedly slandered lesbians and gay men in the House of Commons. While you claimed to be singling out "fairies... even the gays don't like them," I take exception to your remarks as do, I'm sure, my family, friends, and other Canadians who support fair treatment of gays and lesbians.

What makes you think even the most effeminate gay male RCMP officer would try to arrest a lumberjack with a powder puff? Do you not know any effeminate men who are heterosexual? Imagine how they must feel!

Because discrimination against gays and lesbians cannot, in good conscience, be justified, you have dragged out generations-old stereotypes to send yourself up. This is most unbecoming of an elected representative and I am writing to the Prime Minister to demand a public apology from you (in case you feel a retraction is not necessary).

Kenn Chaplin
St Catharines, Ontario

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In Ontario, a rightwing pressure group lends its sophisticated marketing techniques to fundamentalist churches opposed to human rights for lesbians and gays

It's all in the family

A province-wide mailing by the Coalition for Family Values (CFV) has intensified debate over Ontario's Bill 7. An amendment in the proposed bill would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in Ontario.

The CFV, a self-described association of church, community, business, professional and citizen's organization "committed to basic moral and family values," has distributed material decrying the sexual orientation amendment, saying that it would "change the fabric of our society." The letter is signed by Hudson Hilsden, chairman of the Coalition and co-ordinator of social concerns for the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

Accompanying the letter is a donation form, a list of Ontario MLAs (including phone numbers) and a "questionnaire," with carefully worded queries on homosexual behaviour.

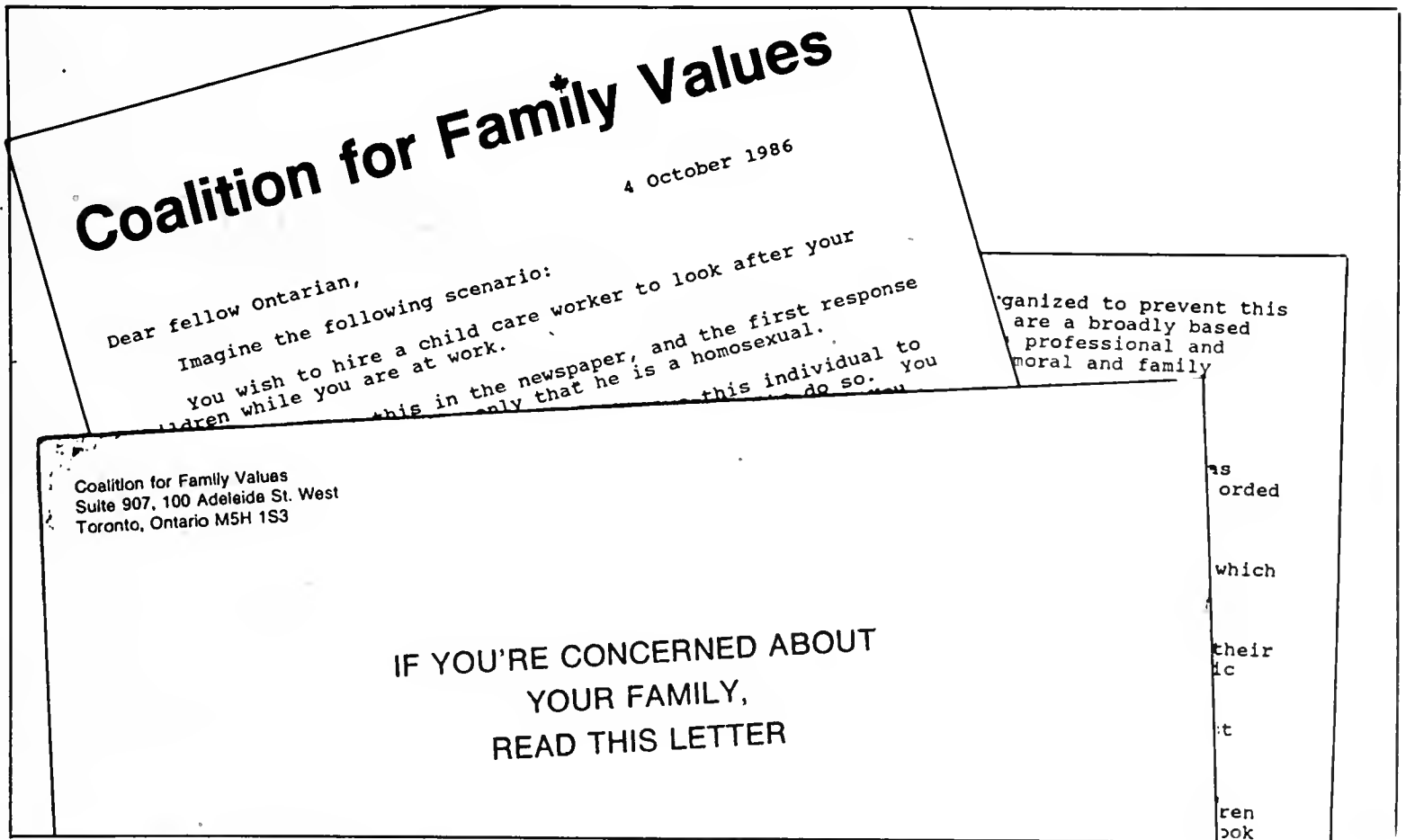
Mailed out on or around Oct 4, the letter is addressed to those who are "concerned about their families" (as the envelope warns). The campaign is clear: stop Bill 7.

The CFV's attack has arrived hot on the heels of debate over, not the content of the bill, but the question of when the bill would be put before the Committee of the Whole House. Introduced over a year ago, Bill 7 was amended in committee by MLA Evelyn Gigantes (NDP-Ottawa Center) May 6 to include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination. Since then, the timing of third reading (final passage) of the bill has been hard to pin down.

During the summer, before the formation of the CFV, the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario (CGRO) was lobbying MLAs identified as being "on the fence." Now, with the formation of an organized effort to squelch Bill 7, CGRO has exchanged its soft-peddalling strategy for one that is more aggressive. François Lachance, a CGRO spokesperson, understands that the introduction of the bill could occur at any time.

"We are concerned that the bill could be stalled, hence, a big push is needed," Lachance told TBP. "People are really mad about what's happening with CFV's letter."

Lachance supported CGRO's low-key lobbying over the summer, saying that it was essential to begin a network in order to channel information. Asked if CGRO was expecting an organization like CFV to come along, Lachance responded



Scare tactics. The language is moderate, but the message is "They'll get your kids!"

that CGRO has been gearing up for the possibility all summer. The rally in Toronto on November 20 will be a "a clear message to (Attorney General) Ian Scott" and will provide a focus for community effort, Lachance said.

The CFV's mailing is significant in that it marks the first time opposition to gay rights has so extensively, and expensively, campaigned. The cost of the mailing suggests big money. The effect of the literature, however, appears to be causing division even among potential supporters of the CFV.

MLA Rick Ferarro (Liberal-Wellington South) has received enough negative response to the literature that he felt compelled to bring it to the attention of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Ferarro, a Roman Catholic, told reporters on October 16: "If it's not hate literature, it's pretty darn close." The request for a ruling on Hilsden's solicitation for money is currently before the Business Practices Division, which investigates potential problems in the solicitation of funding and the manner in which funds are attained.

MLA Susan Fish (PC-St George) also expressed her dismay with the approach of the CFV. Fish, a long-time supporter of gay rights, told TBP that she was "disappointed" by the actions of certain Roman Catholic bishops and Christian fundamentalists. The tactics of groups like the CFV, Fish said, "creates real problems with several members of parliament."

A closer look at the CFV reveals that it is not solely based on the Christian fundamentalist movement. Aside from organizations such as Swaggart Ministries, the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Canadian Baptist Federa-

tion and the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, involvement is also coming from the (wacky) REALwomen of Canada and, most notably, the notorious National Citizens' Coalition (NCC).

A call to the NCC put TBP in touch with Alex Alvaro, NCC Marketing Director. Asked about the corporate sponsorship, Alvaro asserted that the NCC represents "a large number of Canadians who are not represented by the main political spectrum." The NCC, Alvaro said, is interested in more freedom through less government and, although it has a free enterprise approach, the NCC should not be construed as solely representing corporate interest.

The NCC is, according to Alvaro, promoting "individual rights;" its objections to the sexual orientation amendment in Bill 7: no public debate; the term "sexual orientation" is vague; the state, rather than the parent, decides the moral standards and associations of the children.

Alvaro claimed that the NCC should not be unfairly viewed as "gay-bashers," and that it does not wish to align itself with the religious philosophies of fellow member groups of the CFV. "It's unfortunate," Alvaro said, if people think of the NCC that way. And when asked if he was familiar with the Quebec experience (Quebec has provided gays and lesbians with legal protection since December 15, 1977), Alvaro offered only that he didn't "know a lot about the Quebec situation."

Despite Alvaro's apparent desire to downplay the role of his organization, the return address of the CFV is the NCC's office. And Alvaro admitted that the NCC helped compose the mailing, and that it had printed and mailed it. All of this he characterized as "acting as liaison," for the

CFV.

Alvaro acknowledged that the mailing to 50,000 households across the province had lost money, but said this is usually the case for a mail-drop campaign. After estimating the cost of the mailing at \$15,000, Alvaro said it produced a return of two to three percent. He described this response as "quite substantial" for this kind of mailing campaign, and said that a majority of the respondents approved the CFV's stand.

Since the appearance of Hilsden's letter, the mainstream press set about rehashing the issue with the usual results. The Toronto Sun, always a hotbed of knee-jerk reaction, published an October 14 column by Judi McLeod who compared the Ontario Liberals with Pontious Pilate's rule. Then, perhaps in order to shock its readers further, it printed, on October 30, an article by its Queen's Park Bureau Correspondent, Ciaran Ganley, describing Ontario Attorney General Ian Scott's calm approach to the issue. Aside from a gaffe about hiring someone interested in bestiality for a zookeeper's position, Scott made quiet sense on the sexual orientation amendment.

Scott's comments aside, the populace of Ontario is being treated to a unique political dance involving all three parties. The Liberal party has been unable to commit itself to a party line, leaving friends and foes free to wonder whether this approach indicates a lack of backbone or true indecision.

Phil Dewan, an assistant to Premier David Peterson, told TBP on November 6 that there was

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"no determination as to whether a free vote will be allowed" when the Committee of the Whole House votes on the sexual orientation amendment. Though the Liberal caucus is meeting soon to determine this, Dewan said that the issue was "still a bit difficult to call."

On the feelings of the premier himself, Dewan said that Peterson has "supported this initiative in the past and doesn't have any difficulty with it." However, Dewan cautioned that the Premier must also recognize the fact that some of his Liberal colleagues do have problems with the amendment and that the premier is interested in working on the issue with them.

Ian Scott's assistant, Mike Cherney, was guarded in commenting on the issue. Asked whether the fact that all four Liberals in committee had voted for inclusion of the sexual orientation amendment in Bill 7 carried any weight with the rest of the Liberal party, Cherney said that "You can draw your own conclusions." He noted that MLAs hold the power to exercise their right to a "free vote."

The office of the Minister of Labour, responsible for the administration of the Ontario Human Rights Code, was open to the question of whether minister William Wrye would vote for or against the amendment. Wrye's assistant, Mordechai Ben-dat, told TBP that Wrye would indeed vote in favour of the clause.

Susan Fish, although she belongs to the Progressive Conservative party (which told TBP last year that the PC party line stood firm against gay rights), said that she hopes the amendment remains "intact." Her dialogue with fellow Conservatives is ongoing.

The NDP solidly supports the sexual orientation amendment and for party members the issue has become a waiting game. Evelyn Gigantes, the MLA who proposed the amendment, said she

doesn't know why the bill is being delayed; regardless, she sees a certainty that the clause will be voted on by a committee of the Whole House and that the vote will be "extremely tight."

The impact of Bill 7 on all levels of government cannot be underestimated. Bill 7 is entitled "An Act to amend certain Ontario statutes to conform to Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms" and, if passed, is certain to add weight to the argument that Section 15 of the Charter implicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. One step away, at the provincial level, the passage of Bill 7 would almost certainly pressure Manitoba's NDP government to press ahead with promised similar legislation. And on the municipal level Toronto City Council has just asked the province for guidance on the matter of spouse benefits for gay and lesbian employees.

Regardless of the outcome of the struggle to pass Bill 7 into law with the sexual orientation amendment intact, the process will remain as a good example of the working of fundamentalists who couch their bigotry in terms of "family values." And it has been especially interesting to see the Catholic church finally come out strongly against homosexuals, showing us that their basic interest lies in repressing lesbians and gays. Calling homosexuality "a lifestyle (that) will cause great harm to society" finally exposes the church's true colours.

TBP's Ontario readers can make their opinion on Bill 7 known to their representatives at Queen's Park by writing to them at The Legislative Assembly, Queen's Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A2. Think of it as a way to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the defeat of the last such attempt: December 1, 1981. *Andrew Lesk* ●



Can you identify this man?

This man was found unconscious on a street in Amsterdam in February 1985. He had lost his memory and speech and now communicates only in writing in French. He believes he is Canadian. Cities that come to his mind are Montreal, Quebec, Sorel and Noranda. Names he recalls: Robert Lafayette, Pierre Chevalier, Bernard Lagrange, actor Jean Ducepe and Montreal's Theatre Quat' Sous.

He remembers a two-level apartment on top of a 10-storey exclusive apartment building, in which the elevator opened into the living room. From the apartment he could see the St Lawrence River; near the river was an historic building and men in military uniforms.

When found, he wore a silver ID bracelet with the name Gilles on it; he believes it belongs to a friend. He also had an antique silver pocket watch, made in Russia under the brand name Kody, in which were photos of (he thinks) his par-

ents. His left ear was pierced and he wore a black beaded necklace bearing a crucifix. On different fingers of the left hand he wore a thin gold band and a gold and silver ring with a mounted stone.

The man was carrying the above picture of himself and his dog, "Ricke." On the back was written that the photo was taken in the Montreal region in September 1984. He also had a photo of his dog, taken near a Montreal theatre in January 1985.

The only person so far who remembers this man is a Parisian tattoo artist named Bruno, to whom he came bearing greetings from a member of the Demers family of Montreal, also tattoo artists. Bruno tattooed a large eagle on his right arm and a reaper with the words "L'ange noir" on the left approximately in January 1985.

The man calls himself Bob Hunter. He is 5' 8", has dark brown eyes and hair. He thinks he might have been a poet, actor or writer. He also thinks he might have had associations with the military.

If you can help identify this man, please call Kathryn at (416) 928-6327. ●

Keeping their promise

EGALE keeps feds on course; destination is equal rights for gays

A group of 30 lesbians and gay men in Ottawa has formed an organization to ensure that the federal government adheres to its endorsement of equality rights for gay people.

The principle of equality rights for gays was endorsed in Parliament by then justice minister John Crosbie last March 4.

Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (EGALE) spends much of its time lobbying MPs to protect Canadians from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. It evolved from the Equality Writes Ad Hoc Committee, (EWAC), the Ottawa-based countryside letter-writing campaign which aimed to generate support for the recommendations contained in the October 1985 report of the parliamentary Equality Rights Sub-Committee. That committee was in unanimous agreement that discrimination against lesbians and gays be prohibited.

Although Crosbie's announcement last March seemed to indicate that the Conservative government agreed with the recommendations, EGALE believes that pressure from rightwing groups may force the government to reverse its stance.

Jaime Robertson, spokesperson for EGALE, states that Tory endorsement has helped to trans-

form gay rights from an esoteric issue into a mainstream one. According to Robertson, the rightwing is not representative of the majority of Canadians. A Gallup poll conducted in September 1985 indicated that 70 percent of Canadians favour gay rights. However, Robertson also fears that legislation must be passed before the next federal election, otherwise the issue will revert to being controversial.

EGALE is comprised of eight subcommittees, but despite this structure retains a certain degree of flexibility. Carol Holland, another member of the group, claims that this flexibility "eliminates hierarchies and allows more people to become involved with the organization." Many professions are represented within the group, giving EGALE a wide range of expertise. EGALE strives to be a bilingual organization, given its location in the capital.

"Being in Ottawa, we are very conscious of the political process," says Robertson. The group is emphatic in its belief that results can be achieved by working within the system.

Members of EGALE have frequently met with MPs. Initially, these meetings were used to gauge MPs reactions to the government's endorsement of gay and lesbian rights. MPs have been inundated with mail from EGALE's (and EWAC's) letter-writing campaigns. According to Robertson,

hand-written letters are effective and have alerted MPs to the number of gay constituents they have. While showing MPs that the needs of the gay and lesbian community must be addressed, EGALE's campaigns have also proven that individual efforts can make a difference. When it is a question of potential discrimination in housing or employment, an extraordinary number of people have become involved. Many of them had never been interested previously and some did not know who their MPs were or what the MPs could do for them. (Readers who do not know who their MP is can call (toll-free) 1-800-267-2380 to find out.)

EGALE solicits support from outside the gay community. It has contacted many non-gay groups, urging them to issue statements denouncing discrimination based on sexual orientation. EGALE is pleased with the results to date. Groups such as the United Church of Canada and the Canadian Teacher's Union have lobbied alongside EGALE. "The statement from the Canadian Psychiatric Association which stated that they deplore any restriction of the civil liberties of any citizen by virtue of that person's sexual orientation, surprised us," says Holland.

EGALE does not purport to represent other

gay organizations. However, they are in contact and share information with many groups across the country. "CGRO (Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario) is limited to Ontario, so we were needed to act as a resource centre," says Robertson.

The challenge of the tasks ahead have helped EGALE to thrive. Holland describes her involvement with the group as positive: "Such a loosely structured organization is congenial and a lot more fun. Friendships have been established between the very energetic and dedicated men and women among us." *Robert E Pennant* ●

Readers can contact EGALE by writing to Box 2891, Stn D, Ottawa ON K1P 5W9.

"For example, if it was shown a person was addicted to bestiality, he might be regarded as an unsuitable candidate as a zoo caretaker." Ontario attorney general Ian Scott explaining that amending the province's human rights code to include sexual orientation would mean that homosexuals would be considered for employment only on the basis of suitability. In the October 30 Toronto Sun. ●

The buck stops over there

Toronto's council asks Ontario to decide on spousal benefits for gays

Toronto City Council defeated, on a tie vote November 3, a proposal to ask the Ontario government to consider special legislation for the city or to amend the Municipal Act so that health care benefits could be extended to members of "non-traditional families."

The proposal, which would have allowed the lovers of lesbian and gay employees of the City of Toronto to receive family benefits from CUMBA, the city's insurance carrier, was made by Ward Five alderman Nadine Nowlan. Nowlan told TBP that the request for special legislation would have exempted the city from Section 208 of paragraph 48 of the Municipal Act, which limits insurance coverage to "husbands and wives" of employees, while an amendment to the Municipal Act would have changed the definition for all municipalities in the province.

Nowlan presented her motion, saying it was in keeping with the city's policy of prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the municipal service. This policy has been in effect for 12 years. Last year Council also voted to require companies who hold contracts with the city to observe municipal anti-discrimination guidelines.

Nowlan advised the meeting that the city solicitor had seen a motion to extend benefits to non-traditional families as problematic, if the province was not first consulted. But Nowlan noted that requests by the city for such special legislation were not unusual.

Ward Six councillor Jack Layton supported Nowlan's motion, saying that it allowed for clarification of the province's intention with regard to lesbian and gay rights. He also denounced an "outdated" conservative element on Council and called criticism of the motion from this element "a clear-cut case of discrimination between same-sex and opposite-sex partnerships."

As expected, Ward Four alderman Tony O'Donohue emerged as the most vocal opponent of the motion. He accused supporters of attempting to "change basic rules and basic regulations and the basic meaning of some of the things that we have always stood for." He stated that he saw no problem with the no-discrimination policy, but "it's when you start extending this thing and discriminating in the other way that I have problems with it." He argued the extension of benefits traditionally enjoyed by married or at least heterosexual couples to lesbian and gay families was discrimination against the conventional family. He also spoke in favour of previous recommendations of the Council's executive committee (of which he is a member) which stated agreement with Section 208 of the Municipal Act, and with Section 36 of the provincial Bill 7, which also defines "spouse" as being someone of the opposite sex. Winding up, O'Donohue asked Council to "send a message to Queen's Park" that the people of Toronto do not want to see lesbian and gay relationships legitimized.

Mayor Art Eggleton followed O'Donohue's oration with the statement that he "did not view debate on this issue as being one of redefining the definition of a family" and said that the matter is simply one of clarifying who is entitled to benefits. He also recommended that Council not adopt the resolutions of the executive committee referred to by O'Donohue.

Although, according to Layton, the measures

recommended in Nowlan's motion were not strong, the motion was defeated in an 11-11 tie.

The issue of benefits for lesbian and gay city employees has been the subject of much discussion at Council meetings and in special committees in recent months.

The debate began in August, when an employee of the city-funded 519 Church Street Community Centre approached the centre's board with a request that benefits be extended to cover the employee's lover. The 519's executive director, Roger Hollander, supported the employee and asked the city's finance department to consider the application. When the finance department refused the request, the matter was brought before the city's Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee, which supported the employee and held that provision of benefits was in keeping with the city's no-discrimination and contract compliance policies. The Committee pointed out that the commissioner of finance "considered that it would be appropriate for the City to revise its health care services arrangement with CUMBA so as to provide coverage for same-sex partners and their dependent children who cohabit with City (or Board of Management) employees in non-traditional family relationships." Further, the commissioner anticipated "that the cost impact accompanying the provision of such coverage would be sufficiently minor that the City's existing rates for CUMBA benefits would not be affected."

The city solicitor, after consultation with gay rights activist and Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee member Peter Maloney, also reported himself satisfied that provision of benefits for non-traditional families was on firm legal ground as long as the city requested an amendment to the Municipal Act or special legislation to pertain to the City of Toronto.

Despite these reassurances from the city's financial and legal advisors, and the endorsement of the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario and Councillor Layton, the proposal was defeated at the October 1 meeting of Council's executive committee. Mayor Eggleton and Alderman Michael Gee voted to have the proposal sent to the Personnel Committee for further study, but Aldermen O'Donohue, Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, and Bill Boytchuk voted it down. The proposal, however, was brought forward by Layton for discussion at the October 6 Council meeting.

That Council meeting referred the matter to the Personnel Committee for further recommendations.

When the report of the Personnel Committee was returned to the executive committee, it contained the endorsement of the city solicitor and the commissioner of finance, and another suggestion that extension of health care benefits to same-sex spouses of city employees was "necessary in order to uphold the City's non-discrimination policy with respect to sexual orientation." Peter Maloney was present at the executive committee meeting and made "an emotional appeal" to the proposal, although he told TBP that he found the wording of the recommendation to be vague, and that he would prefer that discussion be relevant only to lesbian and gay relationships.

The proposal was rejected by the executive committee meeting of October 29. In its place

were forwarded to Council recommendations to oppose the legitimization of lesbian and gay marriages. Only Alderman Michael Gee supported the motion. He was quoted as saying that although he found homosexual relationships "repugnant," he considered that "in this day and age, I don't think we can get away with discriminating against anyone, no matter how repugnant we find the whole thing."

Alderman Nowlan then exercised her privilege to have the matter discussed at Council, and made her proposal to the November 3 meeting.

The decision was described as disappointing by Karen Andrews, who last year won family coverage from CUMBA after threatening action against her employer, the Toronto Public Library. Andrews told TBP that she was "sorry that the city was not progressive enough to extend coverage to same-sex spouses."

The city employee whose individual case turned into a discussion of city policy also expressed frustration at the "hypocrisy" of Council in providing a no-discrimination policy but refusing to extend to lesbian and gay employees the benefits enjoyed by heterosexual couples. The employee is considering action through the union that represents workers at the 519 Church Street Community Centre, but explained that the collective agreement with the city is under negotiation at present and that no recourse is available until it is in place. The employee also confirmed that CUMBA is willing to provide benefits for the employee's same-sex spouse; the city's refusal to pay the family rate to CUMBA is the obstacle.

The proposal that was accepted at the November 3 Council meeting was a splendid example of pass-the-buck philosophy. Council asked the province to inform it "as soon as possible of their intention with respect to sexual orientation," a reference to the bill now before the legislature which would add sexual orientation to the province's human rights law. However, the worst was avoided: Council rejected the motion from its executive committee that would have explicitly rejected the legitimacy of gay and lesbian relationships.

It remains to be seen what the provincial government, in its inexhaustible ingenuity, will do with the question.

Lynn MacFie ●

ONCE UPON A TIME

Five years ago:

November 18, 1981: In Ottawa, Canadian Gay Archives wins an appeal lodged with Revenue Canada and obtains tax-exempt status as a registered charity.

November 20, 1981: Jack Campbell, head of the US Club Bath chain, pleads guilty to conspiracy charges and is fined \$40,000. Campbell had been charged with conspiracy to live off the avails of crime, following the Toronto bathhouse raids of February 5.

December 1, 1981: In Toronto, the Ontario legislature defeats amendments to include sexual orientation in the human rights code. So ends a decade of protest and lobbying by the gay movement.

Ten years ago:

December 1976: In Vancouver, Canadian University Press approves a national boycott of the CBC for refusing to air public service announcements for a Halifax gay group.

Michael Totzke ●

ST JOHN'S

Ron Hicks ●

A priest, an aviatrix, a fortune teller, a buxom school marm and young boys in togas. What do they have in common? They all celebrated Halloween at GALA at MUN's initiation social at Earhart's on November 1.

GALA at MUN is the newly formed Gay and Lesbian Association for students, faculty and staff of Memorial University of Newfoundland. Membership in GALA is open to the public and it is hoped that many non-homophobic persons will support the group. The organization is still awaiting ratification by the Council of the Students Union (CSU); the only impediment to ratification so far is the pace of CSU deliberations. GALA's aim is to educate the university and general public about homophobia through seminars, publications and lectures. Another of its functions is to provide a support group for gays and lesbians at the university. GALA also hopes to form a network of professional associates for those in need of their services. Anyone wishing to contact GALA may do so at the following address: GALA at MUN, c/o Gregory, 143 Gower St, St John's NF A1C 1P4. Strong support for GALA was demonstrated by Earhart's generous donation of their premises for the Halloween dance. Earhart's also donated a 40-ouncer on which tickets were sold.

Earhart's is the new gay bar in town. It is located on Duckworth Street, upstairs in the same building as Priscilla's. While neither bar is exclusive, Earhart's caters mainly to lesbians and Priscilla's clientele is predominantly male. The greatest advantage of having the two bars in the same building is that it allows easy mingling of the gays and lesbians. (This will be made easier still when they decide to open the interior door joining the two establishments.) In a town as small as St John's, it is important that the gay community not be split. Earhart's and Priscilla's provide the ideal solution.

Meanwhile, Priscilla's and Earhart's held their own Halloween parties on October 31. Both parties were well attended and prizes were awarded for various categories of costumes. Priscilla's surprised everyone with a floor show by local artist "Donny." Carry on camping, girl.

GAIN (Gay Association in Newfoundland) still exists and maintains a very active hot line — (709) 739-7975 — in spite of the fact that it was socially inactive over the Halloween weekend.

Christmas is next and, while information is scanty, Earhart's tells me that they will be having a Christmas party on Saturday, December 20. Priscilla's is planning a New Year's Eve bash with buffet at \$10 a head. Tickets are available at the bar. I hear through the grapevine that GALA at MUN will also sponsor a Christmas social — date and location yet to be determined at time of writing. For further information, when it becomes available, you can call me at 753-1569. I'm rarely at home so keep trying and don't despair.

On behalf of gay Newfoundland, I would like to extend warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a gay ole time at New Year's to the rest of gay Canada. May 1987 be the year when more of you will vacation with us.

Ron Hicks ●

A MESSAGE FROM PEOPLE WITH AIDS

All of us have been, or may soon be touched by this disease. On August 28, 1986 the Toronto P.W.A. Coalition was formed to strengthen the battle against AIDS. We are people with AIDS helping people deal with AIDS. Your donation will help us reach out to those still isolated, provide self-help discussion groups, arrange low-cost housing, and ease financial emergencies. Please help us help by sending your donation to:

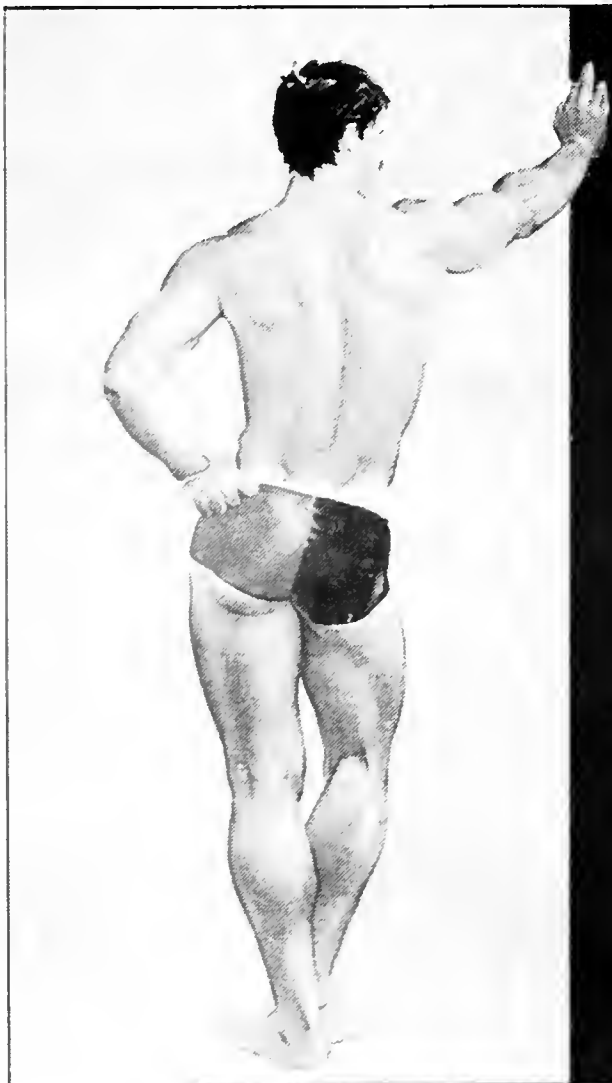
Toronto P.W.A. Coalition
P.O. Box 1065, Station Q
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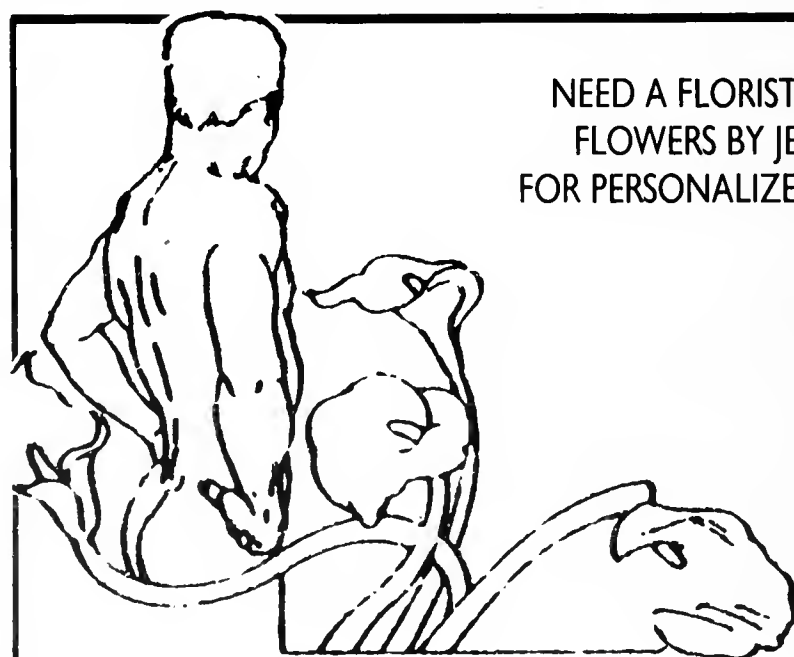
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Feds secure AZT for PWAs

Life-prolonging drug will be in Canada 'in a matter of days'

AZT, a drug which has been shown to slow the progress of AIDS in infected individuals, will soon be available in Canada.

Greg Smith, head of the National AIDS Centre in Ottawa, told TBP November 5 that supplies of the drug would be in the country "in a matter of days."

US health officials announced September 30 that a study by Burroughs Wellcome Co, the US pharmaceutical firm which owns the rights to AZT, had found that, of 145 people suffering from AIDS or ARC who received AZT, only one died. There were 16 deaths in a group of 137 similar people who were not given the drug. Officials stressed that AZT is not a cure — it simply retards the reproduction of HIV, the virus believed to trigger AIDS.

Burroughs Wellcome said it would expand the study by making AZT available free to US physicians for the treatment of some PWAs: those who had suffered their first bout of PCP within the previous 120 days, providing they were not participating in any other drug study.

Health and Welfare Canada has been negotiating with Burroughs Wellcome since the summer to persuade the US company to do some AZT research in Canada. Canadian health officials have been under pressure to conduct AZT studies since last spring, when a petition campaign was mounted by the PWA Coalition of Vancouver.

The US announcement of the expanded AZT program increased the pressure on Canadian officials, because of the prospect of hundreds of Canadian PWAs fleeing across the border to secure the life prolonging drug.

Smith said the Canadian AZT study would be more "generous" than the US study because "we don't want to encourage a lot of cross-border traffic." Unlike the US study, which confines AZT to PWAs who have had a first bout of PCP within the previous 120 days, the Canadian study

will enroll any PWA who has ever had PCP. Like the US study, it excludes those already involved in other drug treatment programs.

Smith told TBP it was "only a matter of days" before a supply of AZT arrived in Canada and that it would be available through seven regional coordinators (see box). The coordinators will be responsible for granting applications from physicians or pharmacists, patients cannot apply directly.

Smith said he anticipated that between 150 and 180 of Canada's current caseload of 350 PWAs would be eligible to receive AZT through their doctors.

In Toronto, James St James, a member of the city's PWA Coalition, said he felt the terms of the study were too restrictive because only PWAs with PCP are eligible. Another large group, PWAs with Kaposi's Sarcoma, are not. He attributes the restriction to scientific considerations: PCP patients make better subjects for studying the effects of AZT because "they die faster." (PWAs with PCP generally die within 18 months of diagnosis; those with Kaposi's Sarcoma survive more than twice as long.)

Still, St James is relieved that there is apparently quick action to get AZT to some Canadian PWAs: "It's a ray of hope where there's been none." *Ken Popert* ●

AZT Study Coordinators

Physicians (but not patients) can apply for supplies of AZT for the treatment of eligible patients by contacting one of the following regional coordinators.

British Columbia: Dr Alistair McLeod in Vancouver at (604) 688-0161;

Alberta: Dr John Gill in Calgary at (403) 220-6032;

Saskatchewan: See Alberta or Manitoba;

Manitoba: Dr Fred Aoki in Winnipeg at (204) 788-6444;

Northern and eastern Ontario and Toronto: Dr Anita Rachles in Toronto at (416) 480-4681; **Western Ontario, Hamilton and Niagara:** Dr Dan Sauder in Hamilton at (416) 521-2100 Ext 3680;

Quebec: Dr Raymond Beaulieu in Montreal at (514) 844-0161;

Atlantic provinces: Dr Walter Schlech in Halifax at (902) 428-3742. *KP* ●

AIDSSPEAK

ARC: AIDS-related complex, a mild form of AIDS in which patients display a number of symptoms, but do not suffer from such infections as PCP or Kaposi's Sarcoma.

AZT: Azidothymidine, also known as Compound S, a drug developed in 1964 for treatment of cancer and one of a handful of substances now being looked at as a treatment for AIDS.

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the organism believed to cause AIDS, perhaps in concert with other as yet unknown factors. Formerly called LAV, ARV and HTLV-III. The virus is detectable only by very expensive laboratory procedures which are performed only when there is strong evidence that a patient may have AIDS.

You can get more information and advice about AIDS by calling the following community sources:

St John's: St John's AIDS Information Committee, c/o Wally Upward.....(709) 739-7975

Halifax: Metro Area Committee on AIDS, c/o Gayline.....(902) 423-1389

Montreal: Montreal AIDS Resource Committee/Association des ressources montréalaises sur le SIDA.....(514) 937-7596

Comité SIDA à Montréal.....(514) 282-9888

Ottawa: AIDS Committee of Ottawa.....(613) 563-4818

Kingston: Kingston AIDS Project.....(613) 549-1232

Niagara Region: AIDS Information Line c/o Gay Outreach Niagara.....(416) 641-8800

Toronto: AIDS Committee of Toronto.....(416) 926-1626

AIDS Information Line, for a recorded message.....(416) 924-5200

Hamilton: Hamilton AIDS Network for Dialogue and Support.....(416) 528-0854

Kitchener/Waterloo: AIDS Committee of Cambridge-Kitchener-Waterloo and Area, c/o Bill Allen.....(519) 749-0977

London: AIDS Committee of London.....(519) 434-8160

Windsor: AIDS Committee of Windsor.....(519) 256-4244

Thunder Bay: AIDS Committee of Thunder Bay.....(807) 345-8011

Winnipeg: WGCHC AIDS Committee.....(204) 774-4846

Regina: AIDS Regina.....(306) 522-4522

Edmonton: Edmonton AIDS Network.....(403) 424-4767

AIDS Phone Line.....(403) 429-2437

Calgary: AIDS Calgary.....(403) 262-6446

Vancouver: AIDS Vancouver.....(604) 687-2437

Victoria: AIDS Vancouver Island.....(604) 384-4554



Photo: David Blair

The most important way gay men can slow the spread of AIDS is to use a condom when assfucking

NUMBERS

As of November 3, the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control (LCDC) in Ottawa had recorded a total of 763 adult cases and 17 pediatric cases of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Canada. This compares with a total of 726 adult cases this past October 6 and a total of 355 cases one year ago.

LCDC figures may lag behind provincial statistics because of delays in diagnosis and reporting.

The current Canadian adult total of 763 cases breaks down as follows:

	Total	Gay or bisexual	
		Cases	Living
Canada	763	625	309
ON	296	276	137
BC	154	146	71
QC	235	139	64
AB	42	35	15
MB	10	10	7
NS	10	9	7
SK	9	8	6
NB	6	1	1
NF	1	1	1

No cases are reported in Prince Edward Island or the Territories. ●

HIV antibodies: Substances produced by the body in reaction to invasion by HIV. The presence of these antibodies in blood indicates that HIV has entered the blood, but does not reveal whether the virus is still present or active.

ELISA: Enzyme-Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay, a chemical test designed to detect HIV antibodies. Because it is cheap, ELISA is used to screen blood supplies, although its hypersensitivity often causes it to detect antibodies where there are none, entailing the destruction of uncontaminated, along with contaminated, blood.

PCP: Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, a normally rare variety of pneumonia that commonly afflicts people with AIDS. It is one of the "marker" diseases that, combined with other symptoms, define cases of AIDS.

PWA: Person with AIDS.

Western Blot Assay: The standard test for detecting HIV antibodies. Accurate, but too expensive for casual use, it is employed to weed out false, positive ELISA results. ●

Healthcare workers not at risk for AIDS

A countrywide surveillance program initiated last September by Health and Welfare Canada's Laboratory Centre for Disease Control has so far indicated that the risk of contracting AIDS while caring for PWAs is low.

At 200 hospital and laboratory sites across Canada the program enrolled healthcare workers who had been exposed to the blood or body fluids of patients who had AIDS or ARC, or had tested positive on an HIV antibody test.

Methods of exposure included needle pricks, eye splashes, scalpel wounds and contamination of open wounds.

In the first year of the program, 51 healthcare workers were reported exposed. Each was required to take an HIV antibody test immediately and every six weeks afterwards for six months. Two final tests were required 9 and 12 months after exposure.

Of the 51 subjects, none has converted from a negative to a positive antibody reading.

The results of the program were published in the October 25 issue of the Canada Disease Weekly Report. *Ken Popert* ●



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California rejects PANIC

By a margin of two to one, voters defeat the LaRouche AIDS quarantine initiative.

Lesbians and gay men celebrated a smashing victory November 4 with the defeat of the LaRouche-sponsored "AIDS quarantine" initiative.

Close to two-thirds of the state's voters rejected the measure, known as Proposition 64, which would have amended the public health code for communicable diseases to include "AIDS and AIDS virus carriers," thereby requiring resources to be devoted to HIV-antibody testing rather than research and safe-sex education. The proposed change would have also allowed state health officials to order the quarantining of persons with AIDS and individuals who tested HIV-antibody positive.

Lyndon LaRouche and his supporters formed a group called the Prevent AIDS Now Initiative Committee (PANIC) which attempted to instill fear in the public by claiming that "every leading medical institution in the United States and Europe knows that AIDS is spread by casual contact." They also asserted that AIDS could be spread by "biting insects" and "infected droplets in the air."

LaRouche is well known for his ludicrous claims, including his conviction that Queen Elizabeth II is "the head of a gang pushing drugs;" that the Nazi Holocaust never occurred; and that Henry Kissinger, whose "heathen sexual inclinations are merely an integral part of a larger evil," is a homosexual.

The successful campaign to defeat the initia-



photo: Savage Photography

No on 64 party: The crowd grew festive as the results became clear

close race, and Senatorial candidate Ed Zschau spoke out against the initiative — Cranston because of his longstanding and unwavering support for lesbian and gay rights and Zschau because his campaign manager was gay. The only major political figure to keep silent was Governor

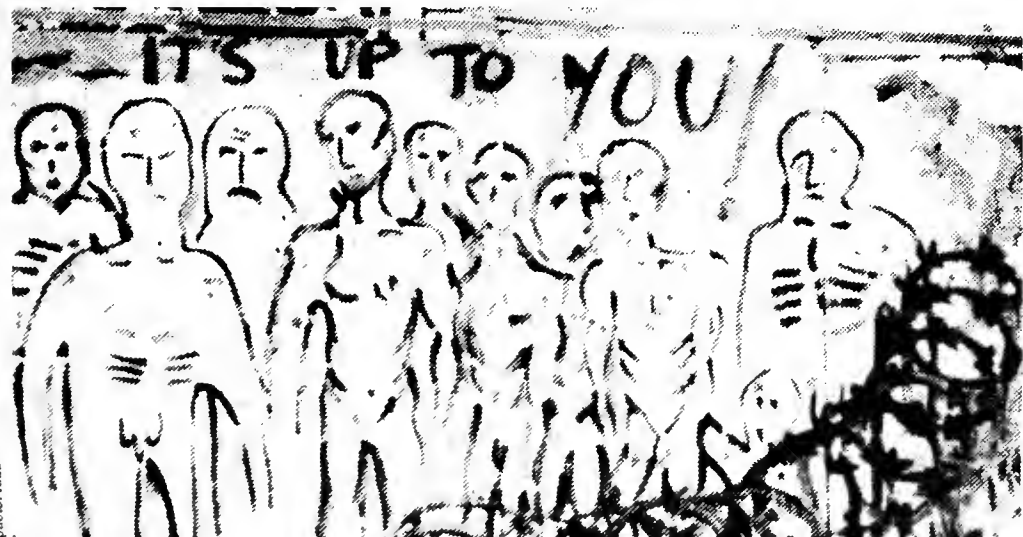
potential liability); a bill to increase the confidentiality of health records; and a bill requiring that a warning on the possible danger of nitrates (popers) be posted wherever they are sold.

More than 30 bills were either defeated or withdrawn, including legislation which would have required HIV-antibody testing to obtain a marriage licence, for all prison inmates, and for lifeguards.

Now that the tally is in, and the extreme right has been discredited, lesbian and gay organizations will be able to take advantage of the experience gained in this campaign and move on to other issues of concern to the community. Efforts to obtain greater funding for AIDS research and for social services for persons with AIDS will be better received. And, with lesbian and gay organizations having cooperated on a statewide level

for the first time, prospects for the election of the first openly-lesbian or gay state official have never looked better.

There was also some bad news on election night. California Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bjd, who has been very supportive of equal rights for lesbians and gay men and who was the author of the 1979 court decision extending the law providing protection against discrimination in private employment to include sexual orientation, was removed from office. She had been targeted for defeat by right-wing, fringe groups because of her progressive stands on social issues, including her opposition to the death penalty. Her loss will be deeply felt by the lesbian and gay community. ●



Life under LaRouche: A San Francisco street artist's vision

tive was largely due to the well-organized campaign in the lesbian and gay community which sought and received widespread support from mainstream organizations and politicians. The medical profession, including the California Medical Association; religious leaders, including the California Catholic Conference which is composed of all 20 bishops; and the teaching profession all actively participated in opposing the measure.

All the major newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times and the Hearst-owned San Francisco Examiner, published editorials denouncing the initiative. Senator Pete Wilson, Senator Alan Cranston, who was re-elected in a

Deukmejian.

The initiative wasn't the only AIDS-related development in the state. In an affront to the lesbian and gay community and sponsor Assemblyman Art Agnos, Deukmejian (who defeated Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley in his bid for re-election) again vetoed a bill which would have prohibited housing and job discrimination against persons with AIDS. However, in the final days of the legislative session, 10 bills in response to the AIDS epidemic were enacted, including an appropriation of \$4 million to manufacturers to develop a vaccine (and the creation of a state compensation fund for any injuries attributed to such a vaccine in order to protect manufacturers from

Catholics court sinners

New Zealand bishops urge gays be treated with dignity

NEW ZEALAND — In a turnaround that has upset some New Zealand Catholics, New Zealand bishops have issued a statement on homosexuality reversing their earlier position that it was a "moral harm."

A six-page booklet issued by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Council entitled Dignity, Love, Life, urges that lesbians and gay men be treated with dignity. Although it describes gay sexual activity as "morally wrong," it urges priests and teachers to accompany their teachings with "the kind of experience that enables homosexual persons to know that they are not being rejected or

put down."

In a somewhat perverse commentary, Sir Peter Tait, one of the leading opponents of a recent law reform which repealed the statutes criminalizing sexual activity between men, said he thought homosexuals should be accepted into churches. "One of the tragedies of the church today is that we don't have enough sinners. We should be welcoming homosexuals, street kids, gangs, all sorts of people." ●

Dubious data, blatant bias

Meese Commission report on pornography urges anti-sex, not pro-woman, policies.

WASHINGTON, DC — On July 9, US Attorney-General Edwin Meese III, standing before a 12-foot aluminum statue of a half-naked woman in the Justice Department auditorium, announced the release of the two-volume, 1,960 page report of the Attorney-General's Commission on Pornography¹. With photographers rushing the stage for this unique photo opportunity, the closing moments of the Meese Commission went no more smoothly than had its preceding year of public hearings and executive sessions.

The Attorney-General — who had not read the report — tried to reassure reporters. "I'm not concerned about any censorship being fostered by this document," he said. But Meese, unable to answer most questions about the report, was also uncertain about the statue, *The Spirit of Justice*. "Is it obscene?" reporters wanted to know. The Attorney-General wasn't sure.

The closing press conference accurately reflected the paradoxical qualities of the Meese Commission. The panel's 300-plus hours of public hearings featured zany, if unintended, comedy: vice cops, born-again Christians, and prosecutors thundering indictments of pornography and its progeny — divorce, homosexuality, premarital sex, and the destruction of the family — in a '50s-style epiphany of prurient righteousness². But its 92 recommendations, backed up by a substantial federal, state and local apparatus already in place, pose a serious threat to free expression, particularly for lesbians and gay men.

With the report's release, controversy over pornography has fully entered mainstream American politics and discourse, no longer confined to feminist and fundamentalist circles. Although the report has not been accepted as convincing, and its release has generated a barrage of critical press coverage, screaming and simplistic headlines such as "Porn Causes Violence" and "Panel Finds Porn Linked to Harm" cannot help but influence American public opinion. Based on the panel's categories of pornography, media coverage tended to single out certain kinds of pornography as especially pernicious. "Violent" and "degrading" pornography was much more cause for concern, the media reported, than commonly available commercial pornography (men's magazines like *Playboy* and *Penthouse*). And the images flashed on screens in commission hearing rooms and in subsequent news broadcasts made it clear that "violent" pornography meant SM sexual images, while "degrading" pornography meant sexual images that fell outside of the heterosexual mainstream. The message was not difficult to comprehend, nor was it new: pictures of unconventional sexuality, like the sexual behaviour itself, were dangerous and harmful, and needed legal control.

The report recommends vigorous enforcement of current obscenity laws and the passing of wide-ranging new measures against sexually explicit material. The commission also calls for citizen and morality groups to take action against non-obscene material beyond the reach of obscenity legislation. Following the detailed blueprint contained in the report, community groups can use

monitoring, picketing and boycotts to remove "material which is harmful, immoral, or objectionable."

Although it remains to be seen if conservative groups who support the commission can roll back two decades of social change in the United States, there is little question that the Meese Commission report represents a serious threat to lesbians and gay men. Its recommendations are the product of largely homophobic commissioners, whose anti-gay comments fill the hearing transcripts and the report. Some of the proposed legislation directly targets lesbians and gay men. Amending the Mann Act (which makes it a federal offence to transport "any woman or girl" for the purpose of "prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose") so that it applies to men and boys threatens gay men, particularly in the many US states that still criminalize sodomy. The recommended enforcement of alcoholic beverage control laws that "prohibit obscenity on licensed premises" calls to mind the use of regulatory statutes to shut down lesbian and gay bars in the '50s and '60s.

But the most serious threat to gay and lesbian sexual images lies in the panel's strong recommendation that "degrading" images be prosecuted on a high-priority basis. In a homophobic society, prosecution of "degrading" images is licence for every district attorney and vice cop to go after all sexually explicit depictions of lesbian and gay sex, in their view beyond the pale and "pornographic" by their very nature. And whatever gay or lesbian sexual images escape obscenity prosecutions remain vulnerable to the actions of national and local minority groups — "a network of citizen sex-spies," in the words of one commission critic — who can police their local areas for offensive and objectionable materials and take action against them. Gay bookstores, bars and restaurants, perhaps?

The commission was appointed by the Attorney-General in May 1985 to "recommend possible initiatives ... in controlling the production and distribution of pornography." Conservative and fundamentalist groups had been pressuring the Reagan administration to take decisive action regarding the "porn problem." The goal of the Meese Commission was to overturn the findings of the 1970 President's Commission on Pornography, and so it has.

Conservatives had been gunning for the 1970 report, a major obstacle to their social agenda on sex, because that exhaustive review found no evidence that sexually explicit material caused anti-social behaviour. The report recommended that restrictive legislation governing adults' access to sexual materials be repealed and that the government undertake massive sex-education programs for adults and young people. But the Meese report finds that pornography causes harm — individual, social, moral, and ethical. It recommends restrictive legal measures and declines to support sex-education programs. The conservative tenor and goals of the report can hardly be disguised. A drive against pornography may be the administration's sop to conservative groups frustrated by their lack of total victory on abortion and school prayer — the social issue on which Reagan delivers.

Despite its clear mandate, the commission did not have an easy task. The Reagan administration intuited that the traditional "sex and sin" discourse would no longer sell outside of the right wing. The attack on sexually explicit material had to be modernized by couching it in more contemporary and persuasive arguments, drawn chiefly from social science and feminism. So in the commission's updated rhetoric, the pre-eminent harm that pornography caused was no longer sin and immorality but violence and the degradation of women.

The panel's attempt to elaborate the new harms of pornography did not sit well with social scientists. Most refused to make the direct connection — pornography causes violence — which the commission needed. Stymied by the lack of conclusive scientific proof, the panel invented two additional "tiers of evidence" on which to judge harm: the "totality of the evidence" (which included "victim testimony, life experience, and common sense") and "moral, social, and ethical values." No matter what the scientific evidence, then, pornography could be indicted on two of three tiers.

The commission made creative use of rhetoric provided by anti-pornography feminists — like Andrea Dworkin, Catharine MacKinnon, and leaders of Women Against Pornography, who testified at the hearings. Soon conservative commissioners peppered their discussions with terms like "harm" and "degrading to women and children," though their use of these terms reflected their belief that all sex outside of marriage and procreation was degrading and harmful to women. If the commissioners found the feminist anti-pornography rhetoric useful, they decisively rejected feminist remedies, choosing to go the route of obscenity law enforcement (which anti-pornography feminists had denounced) rather than civil rights ordinances (which they had supported).

The Meese Commission concluded that the MacKinnon-Dworkin ordinance was "properly found unconstitutional," because its definition of pornography was overly broad and infringed on the First Amendment. The commissioners appear to be unpersuaded by the distinction MacKinnon and others make between obscenity laws and "civil rights" ordinances. The commissioners state that aggressive enforcement of obscenity laws against "violent" and "degrading" material could achieve what anti-pornography feminists advocate. Despite the decisive rejection of "civil rights" ordinances, commissioners recommend that legislatures consider new laws that would add *civil penalties* to the current criminal penalties for *obscenity*. The only similarity in these two approaches is the word "civil." A civil remedy would permit individuals to seek economic damages against material that would be found obscene under current law, and has no relationship to new definitions of pornography, the subordination of women, or alleged civil rights violations. There was no victory here for anti-pornography feminists, though some — apparently no more savvy than the commissioners about the difference between "civil rights ordinance" and "civil remedy" — have publicly claimed that the panel endorsed Minneapolis-

style ordinances, which in fact it rejected.

On the other hand, anti-censorship feminists and feminists working for better conditions for women in the sex industry had opposed the Meese Commission from the start. They testified against increased enforcement of obscenity legislation and denounced the hypocrisy of the Reagan administration's newfound concern for women after years of slashing affirmative action and social service programs, including those dealing with violence against women.

The Meese Commission carried out its mission with single-minded intensity, while it claimed to be conducting an open-minded inquiry. The stance was unconvincing: the heavy hand of the Justice Department was apparent throughout the proceedings. Meese handpicked the 11 commissioners, who were not permitted to elect their

Anti-censorship feminists and those working for better conditions for women in the sex trade opposed the commission from the start

own chair. Instead, Henry Hudson — a vigorous anti-smut prosecutor from Arlington, Virginia — was chosen to lead the group, assisted by a staff of attorneys and vice-squad officers. Six national hearings were held, on general topics (Washington DC), law enforcement (Chicago), social science (Houston), production and distribution (Los Angeles), child pornography (Miami) and organized crime (New York).

Prior to convening, seven of the eleven commissioners had taken public stands opposing pornography and supporting obscenity legislation as a means to control it. They included the head of a fundamentalist broadcasting syndicate, a city councilwoman who advocates that citizens photograph patrons of adult theatres, a Catholic priest who heads a home for runaway teens "victimized" by pornography and sex, and a legal theorist who writes that sexually arousing speech deserves no First Amendment protection — since it is more like a dildo than an idea. The panel included four women, three of them moderates with feminist sensibilities, who were the commission's chief internal critics. Two went on to write a devastating dissent (published as their personal statement in the report³) that criticized the panel's methods and conclusions.

They were not alone in noticing the commission's procedural deficiencies. Civil liberties and anti-censorship groups effectively publicized the panel's Star Chamber techniques. The most comprehensive and trenchant critique is offered by American Civil Liberties Union legislative counsel Barry Lynn, in his 200-page report, *Pol-luting the Censorship Debate*⁴. The most frequent criticisms focused on:

- The skewed witness list. Fully 77 percent of witnesses — many of them law enforcement officers, members of vice squads, and heads of conservative anti-pornography groups — supported greater control over sexually explicit material.

- Aggressive staff outreach to find "victims" of pornography, coupled with a seeming inability to locate persons with positive experiences with

pornography.

- Biased treatment and questioning of witnesses depending on their views of pornography.
- Staff threats to "name" major distributors and retailers of pornography in the final reporting, allegedly deterring many outlets from carrying men's magazines.

•Withholding commission documents from the press and the public in violation of US "sunshine laws."

•Major lawsuits filed against the commission for procedural irregularities.

The report has been released at a time calculated to have maximum political impact: the summer before a fall election. Bills regulating sexual expression through telephones, computers and cable TV are already pending in Senate subcommittees. If the commission succeeds in creating a wave of public concern about pornography, few legislators up for re-election can afford to be "soft on porn." Right-wing groups have mounted lobbying and publicity campaigns to pressure Meese and Reagan to implement the panel's recommendations. And major US religious groups have formed a national coalition to enlist their parishioners in a campaign against pornography. The only major factor mitigating a serious "porn panic" in the US is the rapidly forming "drug panic." Were it not for crack, use of the military for domestic purposes, draconian sentences and fines for sellers, and massive civil liberties violations could well be employed against pornography. But don't relax. For lesbians and gay men, the Meese Commission recommendations still bear watching.⁵ *Carole Vance* ●

¹ Copies of the Meese Commission's report may be obtained for \$35 (US) from the Government Printing Office, North Capitol and H Street NW, Washington DC 20401. The office will accept credit card orders at (202) 783-3238.

² For a more detailed account of the Meese Commission's process, see On the Road with the Meese Commission by Carole S Vance in The Nation, August 2/9, 1986.

³ See volume 1, pages 195-212, "Statement of Dr Judith Recker and Ellen Levi."

⁴ Copies may be purchased for \$5 (US) from the American Civil Liberties Union, 122 Maryland Avenue NE, Washington DC 20002.

⁵ Warm thanks to Frances Doughty and Gayle Rubin for suggestions and comments.

Carol Vance teaches at Columbia University in New York City.

Falwell forced to pay up to opponent

SACRAMENTO, CA — The infamous Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority/Liberty Federation, has finally complied with a court judgement ordering him to pay \$8,982 to his former college classmate, gay activist Reverend Jerry Sloan.

The case began during a live television program, when Falwell offered to give Sloan \$5,000 if he could prove that Falwell had said the Metropolitan Community Church was a "vile and satanic system that will one day be utterly annihilated, and there will be a celebration in heaven."

The court ordered that, in endorsing the cheque, Sloan "agrees and covenants that he will not call a news conference and gloat over the fact that he prevailed...." ●

High court will hear "Gay Olympics" case

The US Supreme Court has agreed to hear the "Gay Olympics" case.

The legal battle began in August 1982, when the United States Olympic Committee filed suit to prevent San Francisco Arts and Athletics, Inc (organizers of the Gay Games, originally called the "Gay Olympics") from using the word "Olympic."

The committee claimed copyright control over the word and obtained an injunction, which was upheld by the US Court of Appeals. However, a dissenting judge noted that the majority failed to consider the First Amendment issues the case presented.

Gay Games attorney Mary Dunlap pointed out, to no avail, that the word "Olympic" is widely used by such groups as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples and the police, and that there are Olympics for dogs, rats, and crab-catchers. Only the "Gay Olympics" has been singled out for special treatment.

American Civil Liberties Union Gay/Lesbian Rights Project director Nan Hunter explained to TBP that she sees this case as being vitally significant to the lesbian and gay movement: "We hope to use this case to further establish the principle that speech which is affirming and positive about homosexuality is entitled to the fullest protection under the First Amendment." ●

Protestors target anti-sodomy ruling

PHILADELPHIA — Protest continues to mount against the Supreme Court's anti-sodomy decision. Former Chief Justice Warren Burger was recently met by several hundred people protesting the much criticized ruling. A contingent of the demonstration, organized by the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force, rushed his limo and blocked traffic for about 15 minutes.

In Washington DC, about 150 protestors embraced each other demanding the right to love openly and without interference from the police or courts. This time Michael Hardwick, whose petition for a rehearing was denied September 11, was outside the courthouse, urging the protestors "not to underestimate what you as individuals can do." He asked gay men and lesbians "to come out to the people we know, especially those who know and respect us."

Congressman Barney Frank, one of the most outspoken supporters of lesbian and gay rights on Capitol Hill, also spoke to the crowd, calling the Court's decision "bad law, bad morality, and bad politics."

"If the defeat of the sodomy law challenge and the AIDS crisis have shown us anything, it is that the gay community needs to be more actively involved in grand scale coalition-building with blacks, Latinos, native Americans, Asians, women and the poor," said Barney. ●



Photo: David Hindley

Arsonists badly damaged the offices of Pink Triangle magazine and the Lesbian and Gay Rights Resource Centre in Wellington, New Zealand.

According to the Resource Centre's director, Phil Parkinson (pictured above), the intruders vandalized the office and wrote the word "fag" on the floor, then set fires in six separate places.

"The fire was clearly homophobically motivated," commented Centre trustee Julie Glamuzina. Although the arsonists may not have known beforehand that they were breaking into a lesbian and gay office, they attempted to destroy everything in sight once they realized where they were.

Pink Triangle will continue to publish, out of the home of a member of its collective. The archival collections will be stored at the National Library until the premises have been repaired. Those wishing to help out by donating materials to the collection can write to: Box 11-695, Wellington. ●

Chemist convinced pot makes you queer

WASHINGTON, DC — A top White House aide claims to have found the cause of homosexuality.

Carlton Turner, President Reagan's drug advisor, created a bit of a stir with his assertion that smoking pot leads to homosexuality. He based his "findings" on his visits to drug-treatment centres, where he claims to have found that 40 percent of the under-18s have also engaged in "homosexual activities."

"It seems to be something that follows along from their marijuana use," says Turner, who holds a doctorate in organic chemistry. ●

Foundation honours infamous homophobe

Further to the Statue of Liberty hoopla, the Ellis Island Foundation awarded a medal of honour to the infamous Anita Bryant — but not without protest. Including her among the 80 Americans who were honoured was called a "perversity" by National Gay and Lesbian Task Force spokeswoman Urvashi Vaid: "At a time when lesbians and gay people are literally fighting for our lives against a coordinated erosion of our civil liberties, the honouring of a notorious bigot for her work toward 'the dream of liberty and justice for all' is unconscionable." ●

World News Credits

World news was compiled by Charles Phillips and Chris Beatchell from the following sources: Gay Community News (Boston), Philadelphia Gay Community News (Philadelphia), The Advocate (Los Angeles), The New York Native, Lesbian/Gay Law Notes (New York City), Coming UP! Bay Area Reporter (San Francisco), The Washington Blade (Washington, DC), Tri-Valley (Palo Alto), Out! (New Zealand), OutRage (Australia). ●

Would you like to actively follow AIDS developments worldwide?

The Body Politic needs someone to write a monthly column. The information comes from contacts with AIDS organizations worldwide, and from the lesbian and gay press.

If you might be interested, please give Andrew a call at 364-6320.

Coming NEW YORK

The Northeast Lesbian and Gay Student Union Conference is scheduled for the weekend of March 27-29.

For information and registration, write Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Students in New York City (GLASNYC) c/o Columbia Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Columbia University, 303 Earl Hall, New York, NY 10027.

AMSTERDAM

Homosexuality, Which Homosexuality?, an international conference on social aspects of homosexuality, is planned for December 15-18, 1987, at the Free University of Amsterdam.

For further information write Box 7161, NL-1007 MC Amsterdam, The Netherlands, or phone 31-20-548 3812. ●

Gay and lesbian reading

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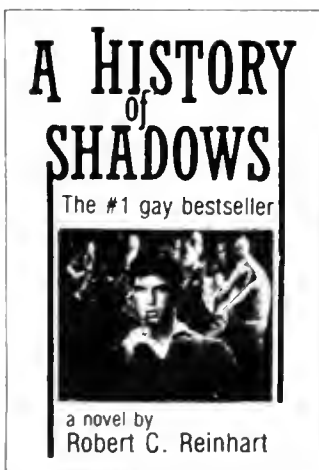


THE LITTLE DEATH, by Michael Nava, \$7.00. Henry Rios is becoming cynical about his job as a public defender. Then a man he has befriended — and loved — dies under suspicious circumstances. As he investigates the murder, Rios finds himself pitted against a wealthy dynasty that is as unyielding as the law he has studied — and far more ruthless.

"Congratulations on the debut of a promising new writer," writes Joseph Hansen.

THE HUSTLER, by John Henry Mackay; trans. by Hubert Kennedy, \$8.00. Gunther is fifteen when he arrives alone in the Berlin of the 1920s. There he discovers the boys of Friedrich Street, and the men who stroll by and speak with them. Soon he is spotted by Hermann Graff, a sensitive and naive young man who becomes hopelessly enamored with Gunther. But love does not fit neatly into Gunther's new life as a hustler...

Gunther's story was first published in 1926. For today's reader, it combines a poignant love story with a colorful portrayal of the gay subculture that thrived in Berlin a half-century ago.



A HISTORY OF SHADOWS, by Robert Reinhart, \$7.00. Through the eyes of four older gay men, Reinhart depicts what it was like to grow up gay in America a half-century ago, and to live a closet life during the Depression, World War II, the McCarthy period, and the Sixties.

EIGHT DAYS A WEEK, by Larry Duplechan, \$7.00. Johnnie Ray Rousseau is a 22-year-old black gay pop singer whose day starts at 11 pm. Keith Keller is a white banker with a 10 o'clock bedtime — and muscles to die for. This story of their love affair is one of the most engrossing — and funniest — you'll ever read.

A FEMINIST TAROT, by Sally Gearhart and Susan Rennie, \$7.00. Reading the Tarot is an attempt to perceive and understand the conscious and unconscious reality surrounding a particular question or circumstance. Here is a widely-acclaimed guide to using the traditional Tarot, with all its richness and mystery, as a women's Tarot, exploring women's inner regions, and giving ear to women's inner voices.



ENTERTAINMENT FOR A MASTER, by John Preston, \$8.00. In this full-length novel, Preston continues the exploration of S&M sexuality that he began in *I Once Had a Master*. The narrator — and master — decides to stage an outrageous party for three close friends. Much of the activity is taken up in the recruitment of volunteers who will instruct, and entertain, the master's guests.

QUATREFOIL, by James Barr, \$8.00. The year is 1946, and Philip Froelich faces a court martial for acting insubordinate to a lazy officer during the closing days of World War II. Then he meets Tim Danelaw, and soon the court martial is among the least of Phillip's concerns...

This classic novel, first published in 1950, remains a romantic and suspenseful read, an intelligently-written love story that gives a vivid picture of our recent but often-forgotten past.



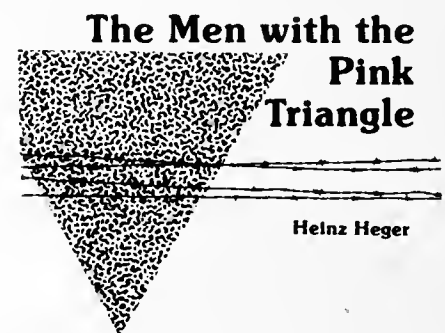
THE PRESIDENT'S SON, by Krandall Kraus, \$8.00. In the world of presidential politics, everything else can easily take a back seat to the quest for political power. This fast-paced novel centers around a president seeking re-election — and his son, whose homosexuality, the president's advisors agree, must be kept secret.

KINDRED SPIRITS, edited by Jeffrey Elliot, \$6.95. Science fiction offers a unique opportunity to portray gay and lesbian characters in a context free of present-day constraints. Here are twelve such stories, with very different visions of what it could one day mean to be gay.



MEDITERRANEO, by Tony Patrioli, \$12.50. Through some 46 photos, Italian photographer Tony Patrioli explores the homo-erotic territory in which, since the beginning of time, adolescent boys have discovered sex. (Oversize paperback)

COMING ALONG FINE, by Wes Muchmore and William Hanson, \$7.00. In their first book, *Coming Out Right*, Muchmore and Hanson discussed some of the challenges a man faces as he comes out. Here, they go further, discussing subjects ranging from problems with interpersonal relationships to the long-term anxieties caused by AIDS to the how-to's of setting up a gay business.



THE MEN WITH THE PINK TRIANGLE, by Heinz Heger, \$4.95. The true, gripping, life-and-death story of a gay man in the Nazi concentration camps — an important and nearly forgotten piece of our history.

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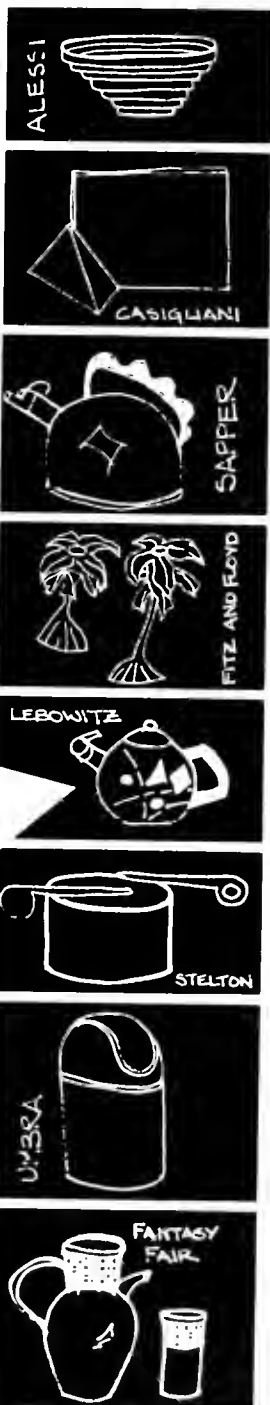
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LETTER FROM

I N D I A

Ashok •

(as told to Arvind Kumar)

A visit home with newly-opened eyes

I just came back from a six-week vacation in India, visiting relatives and friends, and plain sight-seeing. I want to tell you what I did there.

As someone who was born and raised there, I had travelled all over India many times before. This trip would be different, though. This would be my first time as an openly gay man.

I had an errand to run in Delhi. My friend, Lalit, also a gay man, had asked me to look up his mother. I called her up one afternoon and introduced myself. She was suspicious. How did I know her son? I was honest with her. "I'm gay." There was a moment's silence at the other end of the line. And then she spoke. "Son, don't talk of such things over the phone. Why don't you drop by for tea?"

I went to see her the next day. She is an officer. She had a large, comfortable office. She was kind and affectionate. Motherly. Perhaps too motherly. After ordering tea, she began. "Son, you must listen to me. You are not gay. You can't be gay. What you need is willpower and mental resolve and you'll be fine." I listened politely for half an hour, then left.

Kamla Nehru Park in New Delhi is a little patch of green above an underground shopping mall. In the evening, it turns into a hangout for gay men. Or so I had heard. It must have been a bad day because when I got there, it was deserted. Instead, I saw some cops hanging around. The air was filled with tension, as if people were afraid to be there. I didn't stay too long.

Central Park, in the heart of Connaught Place, is a short distance away. It was a welcome change because it was full of men.

I realized I was being followed. It was a young man, my age, probably in his late twenties. When he passed by me, I switched roles and followed him for a while. When he sat down on a bench, I sat down next to him, and said hello.

He was very cautious. (I was soon to discover the cause for his anxiety.) We spent a long time just chatting about the weather and other inconsequential things. With time, his cautiousness lessened, and he finally asked me, "Do you have the inclination?" It was a discreet and polite way of asking if I liked men. With my affirmative reply, he opened up.

His name was Avinash. He was not highly educated, and had a clerical job. We spoke in Hindi. He had reason to be cautious. He'd been blackmailed once by someone he met in the park, who threatened to expose him. Avinash lost a watch in the bargain. He also told me about plainclothesmen entrapping gay men in Central Park.

He was currently single, but hoped to marry someday. When I asked him why, he was surprised. "Doesn't everyone get married?" he asked, as if it was inevitable. I told him about myself, about being out to my family, and why I was never going to marry. It seemed that he had never even thought of the possibility.

We didn't do much else that evening. We couldn't. We had no place to go to. He couldn't take me to his place, as he lived with his family, nor did I feel good about taking someone to my parents' house. He reluctantly saw me off at the bus stop.

The next stop was Bombay. This is the queen of Indian cities, India's Hollywood and San Francisco, all in one, and a haven for gay Indians. In the five years that I had lived here, attending college, I had never met another gay Indian here. This time I was determined to seek them out.

Chowpatty Beach at dusk was full of young men, but they were not there to have fun. They were there to make a living. For a fee, you could get a great massage.

Kerala is the southernmost state on India's west coast. It enjoys the highest literacy rate among Indian states. The native language is Malayalam but many speak English. People are friendly and easy-going, quite willing to talk about sexuality, even of the gay variety. The local press is full of news about North America and AIDS.

In Kovalm Beach, where most Western tourists go, I asked around before choosing a hotel. "Is there a problem with bringing overnight guests?" "We don't encourage it, but if you want to bring a girl..." "No not a girl. A guy." It took a few seconds to sink in. Even then, he misunderstood. He was red. "Look here, Sir, are you trying to proposition me? I have been with the military for my entire life. You bet I have a problem with that." It was hopeless. I stopped asking.

I had better luck in Ernakulam, Cochin's twin city. I went to the Subhash Chandra Bose Park in the evening. The crowd was mostly male, as is common in Indian cities, but there were some families, too. The men were obvious in their cruising. They would stare at you. If you were sitting down, they would come up and sit down beside you to ask for the time. Even when they had watches on.

It was getting dark when I saw Ananth. He was sitting on a bench and I sat down beside him. I asked him if he spoke English (I don't speak Malayalam). He shrugged at first, then said yes. He was 22, still in college. His English wasn't very good, but we could communicate.

We talked for a long time. He lived with his brother and his family. They lived outside Ernakulam, on one of the islands. He had to take the ferry to and from the mainland. His brother raised poultry. They were not rich. He didn't have many friends. He came to the park whenever he was bored.

We went to my hotel and showered together. Later we made love. He was young, trusting, innocent. We did it again the next morning. By the time I was ready to leave, we had become friends. We exchanged names and addresses before parting. We write to each other now and then.

Does Ananth think he is gay? I don't think so, even though he has a few gay friends. He looks up to me, in a way. I am older. I have seen more of the world, literally. He wants my advice about his career and his life. He thinks of me as a friend and a guide.

On this trip, I met few people who were openly gay, or who even identified with being gay. At times, I felt like a stranger and an outsider because I was gay and I thought of myself as such. And yet, I felt I was one of them. I, too, had spent a good part of my life in hiding from others, in concealing my emotions; I understood the despair of a life devoid of friends and support systems, the compromise of marriage and a life of pretense. Never mind the good or the bad, the trip showed me that gay people *were there*. I saw a part of the country I had not seen in 25 years of living there. •

Originally published in *The Indian Subcontinent Gay Support Group Newsletter*: Box 60536, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (408) 729-4703.



Tis the Season!

Every year it rolls around while you're busy leading your life and again you're stuck with the eternal question, "What can I get the person who has everything?" Whether it's a friend, lover or the cute number in the next office, it's never easy to find that one thing that is sure to please.

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The day I don't remember

by Jane Rule

"You invent your mother to suit your own guilt!" I shouted. "She's *unreal*."

Jean, her back to me, knelt by the living room bookcase packing up Rubyfruit Jungle, Lesbian/Woman, Adrienne Rich's essays. Beside her was a box already full of copies of Lesbian Tide, The Body Politic, Conditions. And this was only the beginning. It was the third visit in so many years her mother and much younger sister had made to the coast, the third time Jean had packed up all the incriminating evidence of our



Reprinted from *Outlander*,
Stories and Essays by Jane Rule,
Naiad Press, 1981.

illustration: Sophie Jaworski

life together. The first time I helped not only with the books and records but with the pictures, and we rearranged our clothes in the closets. I even put our toothbrushes as far from each other as possible in the holder. Orphaned at 10, I was without experience in tending the sensibilities of a mother, and I was, anyway, newly in love and awed by the experience. The second time I got sick, and Jean had to sleep with me whether anyone liked it or not. This time I was being resolutely combative.

"Do you hear me?" I demanded, sounding like somebody's mother myself.

"You like my mother; my mother likes you. Kinky's only 14..." Jean began, still going on with the witch-hunt through the shelves.

"Fourteen is old enough for the facts of life." If I hadn't known how offended Jean was by details of my boarding school initiation, I would have used my own experience. Instead I tried a trade-off. "I slept alone in a room full of crucifixes when we visited her house, and she's not even Catholic."

"But she had to raise us Catholic."

"She said she didn't mind that you didn't go anymore. She said she'd kept her promise."

"Karin, it would *kill* Mother."

"I don't believe it!" I shouted. "I believe you think it would kill you to admit I matter to you."

"That's not fair," Jean said, giving me her full attention and judgement at the same time.

"Is this?" I asked with a gesture toward the boxes. "We're not even illegal. We're consenting adults."

"For two weeks I also have to be my mother's child."

People deprived early of their mothers are supposed to keep looking for substitutes, but I am frankly embarrassed by any attempt to mother me. That didn't stop me from feeling jealous of Jean, yea, and jealous of her mother, too. Though I was arguing for honesty, loyalty was the real issue. It was time Jean chose me above everyone else, particularly her mother.

"Well, I'm not your mother's child, and I'm not going to lie to her anymore."

I hadn't expected Jean to finally give in. Never having had to come out to a mother myself, I couldn't really imagine how Jean would do it. I just needed to rage around enough for her to know how I felt. Her suggestion that I leave took me totally by surprise. The line went over and over

around, there wasn't much in the place that belonged to me. Jean's the one to buy things; I'm more apt to spend money on dinners out, weekends away. We'd been here three years, and I was only now not noticing that it didn't look like our place at all. It was Jean's, and she was ordering me out of it, just a week before Christmas.

I should have quit my job and left town, gone somewhere I didn't know anybody or taken one of those cruises gay travel agents are always advertising. Only strangers would have patience for my load of anger and self-pity. But I didn't. I slept on one friend's couch until *her* mother arrived. I drank myself out of welcome at another's. On Christmas Eve I put myself up for grabs at the Crossroads and got the kind of sexual punishment I was probably looking for. I don't remember Christmas Day.

I don't even know what day after that it was — Sunday, I guess, because I wasn't at work. I spent hours walking along the beach. Though Jean's mother was the only argument we've ever had that I had lost, I knew the 10 days behind me were strewn with similar defeats once Jean had an op-

portunity to discover and label them. As one of my erstwhile friends had crudely pointed out, I had been shitting in my own front yard.

leave? She had a house full of crucifixes, a mother and a sister to go home to. My ex-guardian was an uncle who sent me a perpetual subscription to the New Yorker and let the bank deal with the rest. Maybe I should have spent Christmas in the vault.

I should have got Jean Tee Corinne's Cunt Coloring Book to open on Christmas morning, and let her figure out how to be her mother's child after that! They weren't even my books and records she was hiding. They were her own. That was the sort of stupid hypocrite she was, and I was at least going to go back and tell her so.

Jean's mother and Kinky always left the morning of New Year's Eve. The first year, after we drove them to the airport, we spent the rest of the day in bed and didn't make it to the party we had planned to go to. The second year I was already in bed, and Jean spent the day cleaning and putting everything back in place, the evening playing Olivia records and saying she was sorry. We both were. This year I turned up around three in the afternoon. I left my suitcase in the car. I rang the bell.

"Have you lost your key?" she asked when she opened the door.

"No," I said.

I was going to go on to say I didn't feel as if I lived here anymore, but it all looked so familiar, books and magazines in place, so ordinary and real, that I asked instead, "When did they leave?"

"The day after they got here," Jean said.

"What?"

"I told them," Jean said.

"Why? Why did you do a crazy thing like that?"

"It's what you wanted me to do."

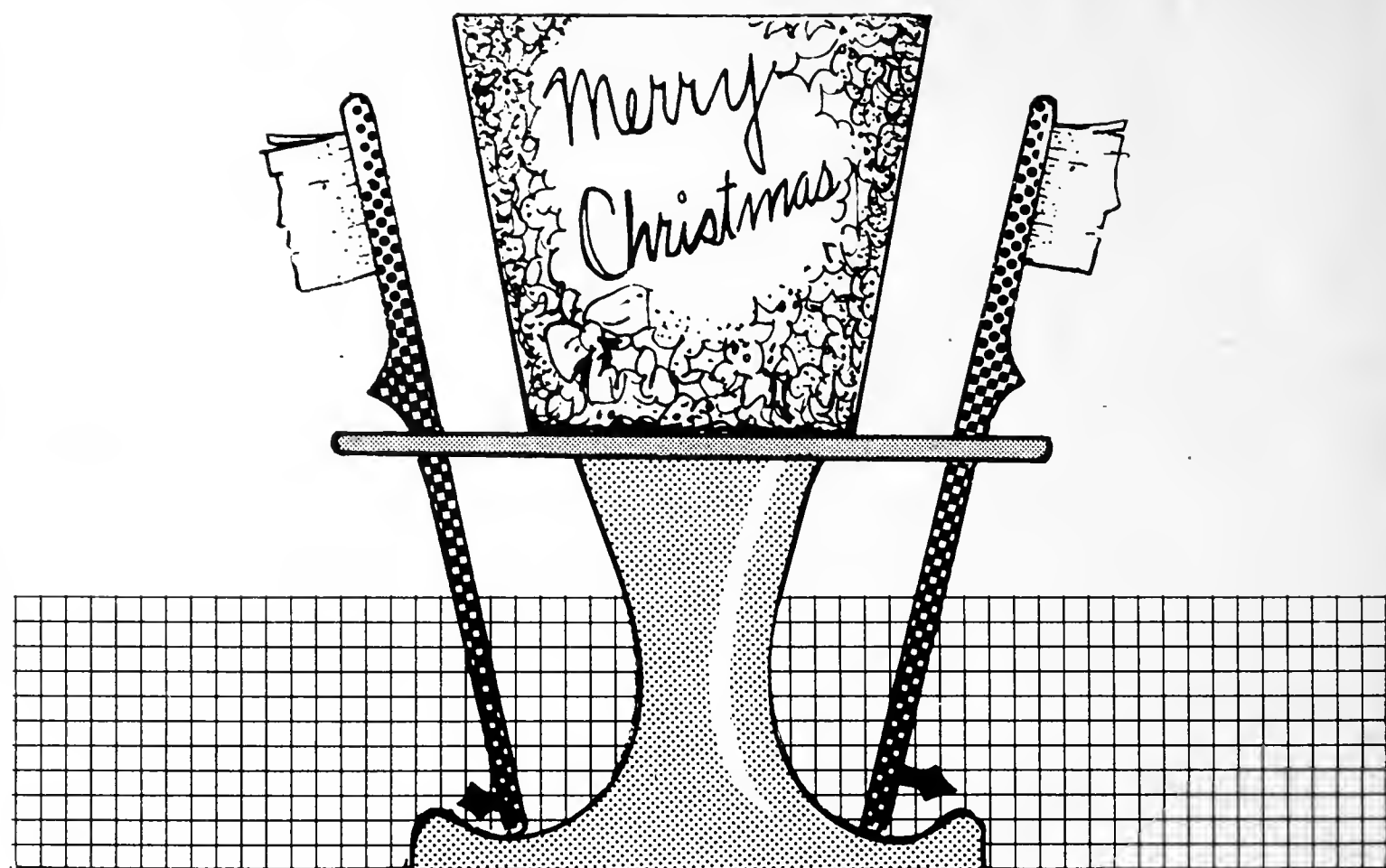
"But not without me, not without figuring out how so — you know — they wouldn't mind."

"I guess I didn't care by then whether they minded or not," she said, sounding not angry so much as resigned.

"What did she say? What did your mother say?"

"Nothing much. That Kinky was still her responsibility. In Dad's memory, she couldn't accept or condone... that sort of thing. Just what you'd expect."

"Why didn't you let me know? Why didn't you call me at work?"



I should have got Jean Tee Corinne's Cunt Colouring Book to open on Christmas morning, and let her figure out how to be her mother's child after that!

again in my head every day: "Then maybe you'd better find some place to stay..."

What if I'd gone on arguing as if what she had said were no worse than her packing up her books? Or what if I'd admitted I was pushing her too hard and actually right then apologized? I was so taken aback I simply asked, "Do you mean that?" And she said, "Yes."

I didn't pack much. Actually, as I looked

"Let her try being holier-than-thou!" I shouted.

"Are you going back then?" the same friend asked.

I didn't know what to answer. I hadn't thought. Trying to, I wasn't sure I had that option now. Once I was suspended from school and behaved with so little repentance that I went back to find myself expelled. Why hadn't I told *Jean* to

"I don't know," Jean said.

"What did you do for Christmas?"

"Nothing."

"Why?"

"I knew what you were doing."

"I can't remember the day at all," I said, and it couldn't have sounded like an alibi.

"Well," Jean said, "here's all your mail."

I started to open it, not knowing what else to do. Christmas cards seemed horribly beside the point. It could have been March or April. Then I came to the most recent New Yorker cover, a reindeer with birds in its antlers.

"Christ!" I said, and I could feel Jean, the ex-Catholic, flinch. "As out-of-key with season as I am."

She didn't laugh. I felt more inappropriate than ever. "What do you need me to say?"

After a moment, she said, "It's what I need unsaid."

"Why did you do it?"

"Because you were right."

I was surprised into a hope that I might be allowed to be self-righteous all over again, but something about the way Jean held her shoulders warned me not to capitalize on it.

"I could have been more tactful," I said.

"Why did you leave?"

"You said you meant it."

"Maybe I did. But I was very sorry — too sorry. I more or less threw Mother and Kinky out, too."

I was sorry, too, but I hadn't been here to live through it with her. Anything I did or said would make it worse rather than better. What if I said, "You know, I wasn't being honest; I was being jealous"? Jean would just be sorrier than ever.

"Why do you always believe me?" I asked.

"I don't know. I really don't know. Tell your next lover not to believe a word you say."

"You, too," I said "And tell her..."

But I had no advice, even angry. If there had been less room for me when Mom (I did call her "Mom") and Kinky were around, their absence left no room for me at all. Crowding in instead were these two new lovers between whom the reconciliations would have to take place. Jean and I had got past forgiving or skipping it, maybe on that Christmas Day she sat alone refusing to phone, the day I don't remember. ●

CHRISTMAS SONG SHEET

Good King Wenceslaus

Sung to... you guessed it!

Good King Wenceslaus gave head
Right beside the font bowl.
While his guests were being fed
He was horizont-ol
As he gave his mighty blow,
As he started cooking,
Little did our good King know
That a cop was looking.

"Stop at once, your Majesty,
He is but a peasant.
It would be a tragedy
to be acquiescent."
Good King Wenceslaus arose
To his proper station,
Wiped the semen from his nose,
Gave this explanation.

"Christmas is a time of worth,
Sharing with your brother,
Celebrating Jesus' birth
Loving one another.
Tell the mandolins to play!
Get the drummers drumming!
Celebrate this special day
With a second cumming."

Wenceslaus was never tried
And this was the reason:
Oral sex is justified
Long as it's "In Season."
Don't be 'fraid this time of year
If you want to do it.
Have a taste of Christmas cheer.
Just don't swallow fluid.

Visa Bills

Sung to Jingle Bells

Christmas on the go.
Dashing through the store,
Spending all your dough.
Charging even more.
Andrew needs a sled!
Gerald needs a bike!
Buying lots of stuff to give to people
you don't like.

Chorus

Visa Bills,
Visa Bills,
Coming in the mail.
Buying lots of items 'cause the items are on sale.
Visa Bills,
Visa Bills,
Hard to disregard.
When you reach your limit then you use your
Master Card.

Eaton's doesn't care
If you're straight or gay,
Neither does The Brick,
Neither does the Bay;
Long as they can sell
All their extra stock.
They make lots of money. Hell,
And you go into hock.

Repeat chorus

It Came Upon a Midnight Queer

Need I say anything...?

It came upon a midnight queer
A rescuer from despair.
While I was lying, alone, in bed
It came from out of air.
A muscled chest, A handsome smile,
A masculine Angel supreme.
A Christmas answer to my prayers
It came but was a dream.

...Sigh!

Safe Christmas

Sung to White Christmas

I'm practising a safe Christmas
Unlike the ones I knew before.
Where all night I stayed out
My legs all splayed out
With four midgets on the floor.
I'm practising a safe Christmas
Towards this goal I know I'll strive
Being careful this year so I've
Got a few more Christmases alive.

Christmas Leather Bar

Sung to Winter Wonderland

Whatta sight! Santa's horny!
Rudolf bites! Wreaths are thorny!
An S and M elf
He plays with himself
Walking through a Christmas leather bar.

Music plays strictly disco
Feet of clay. Hands of Crisco.
A Santa in chains
Is taking great pains
Walking through a Christmas leather bar.

On each table you will find a tree there
Made of leather, standing two-feet tall.
On the top an angel, you will see there
Complete with nipple clamps and
Christmas balls.

Will we fade? We say "Hell, No!"
We've got suede. We've got velcro.
We're happy, we're gay.
We're macho, we're fey,
Walking through a Christmas leather bar.

Come On, Paul, Be Grateful

Sung to Oh, Come All Ye Faithful

Come on, Paul, be grateful.
Don't be so dramatic.
It's not "Armageddon."
It isn't that bad.
So you'll play Scrabble.
So you'll have to smile a lot
No need for being restive.
The atmosphere's digestive.
It's boring, yes, but festive.
Christmas at home.

Vim Wilfred •
illustration Ian King

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DILDO SHOPP



We like different things about fucking. I like the feeling of a full cunt and asshole when I'm about to come — it magnifies the intensity of my orgasm. She would like her dildo to launch her into outer space — as long as it could come with her.

Sometimes I need to feel the inside of her cunt as it lubricates, tightens, balloons and throbs. But other times she tells me she wants to be rammed. She likes it hard: the friction, the thrusting. And I know that, no matter how carefully I clip my nails or how long I can hold my arm in place, my hand is just not the best tool for the job. With a dildo I have more manoeuvrability. Even with my mouth planted firmly on her clit, I can touch more of her and can see better. And I love to watch — especially her face.

A dildo, whether found, bought or handmade,

"Dildos are probably the most taboo sex toys a lesbian could consider using"



is also the most reliable way to enjoy penetration of your own cunt while masturbating. And, with a slight modification, they can be ideal for simultaneous penetration. One of my newest toys is a double dildo that I can hold inside me, for that full-cunt feeling, while fucking my lover furiously with the other end.

Some lesbians enjoy wearing their dildos as drag or in the spirit of genderfuck. Others have more mundane or practical reasons. "At first I had a lot of trouble with all that wetness when I went down on my lover. It helped a lot to put the dildo in first. With it in I could make love to her without fighting the impulse to wipe my face." (An anonymous lesbian quoted in the lesbian sex guide, *Loving Women*.)

Years ago, I was only vaguely aware of dildos. I knew that they existed in the lesbian culture of yesteryear, because I'd seen them in drawings and old photos on my never-ending quest for lesbian erotic images. But when I bought my first sex toy (a "purse-sized" vibrator) at Toronto's Lovecraft more than a decade ago, it was meant as a joke gift to provoke a girlfriend. (They still sell the same model in a "Lifesaver" package for \$5.95.)

She, provoked, did not use it. I, however, discovered both the joys of multiple orgasms and the fact that relationships with vibrators can last at least as long as (sexual) relationships with women.

I now own four vibrators — three of them are dildo-shaped, one of them is soft; two of them are in good working order and I'm sentimental about the other two. I also have three other dildos, including the particularly charming double-header. I've bought dildos and vibrators as serious gifts and extolled their virtues to any dyke who cared to listen. I was finally persuaded of the need for an article like this after the seventh or eighth friend asked me to go dildo shopping with her.

Out of curiosity, I went back to the lesbian sex manuals I've collected over the years to see what they had to say on the subject.

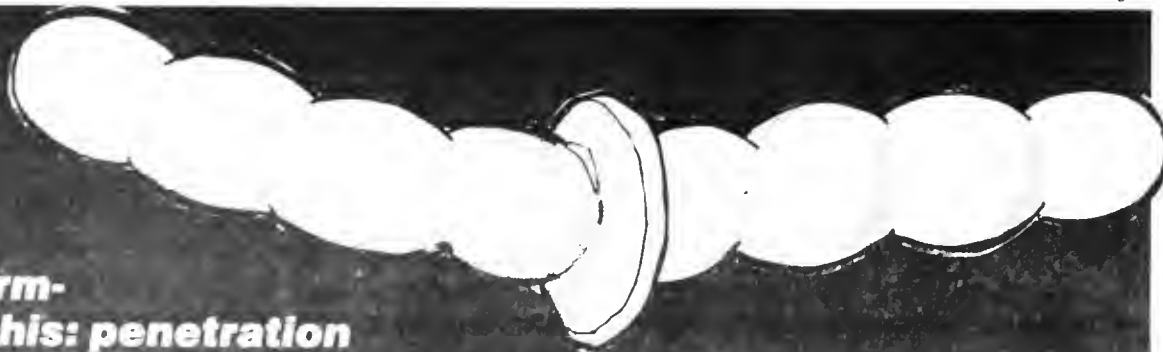
Pat Califia's *Sapphisty* is refreshingly straightforward, practical and thorough. "Some lesbians who like to include vaginal stimulation in their sexual pattern find they fantasize about gender changes. These fantasies have a good chance of causing a lot of needless guilt and anxiety. In this culture gender is a box. Women are defined by the traits they don't share with men. This creates repressed possibilities, whole wilderness areas full of potential experience that we all have a deep hunger to explore. Why should anybody have to be one gender all the time or be a woman according to this culture's definition of womanliness? I see nothing wrong with fantasizing that you are an alien from another planet, a hermaphrodite, a gay man, a boa constrictor, a virgin, or anything else that pops into your head."

The *Joy of Lesbian Sex* is decidedly uninformative. It mentions dildos in a positive light, but only in a three-line paragraph on sex toys. It ignores one of the practical problems — in their haste to establish that dildos are superior to cocks because, among other things, they "transmit neither sperm nor disease," the authors overlook the fact that you risk infection by using the same dildo on more than one woman — or even on more than one of your own orifices — without washing it or using condoms.

Perhaps a desire to avoid things heterosexual leads many lesbians to have hang-ups about using dildos. Califia notes, "Dildos are probably the most taboo sex toys a lesbian could consider using. Relatively few lesbians have even seen a dildo. This is rather funny, since nine-tenths of the world is convinced that dildos are essential to lesbian lovemaking."

illustration: Steven Carrington

"Ladies, the discreet, complete and definitive information on dildos is this: penetration is as heterosexual as kissing."



In recent years, more and more women, including lesbians, have gotten into the business of producing or distributing sex toys, as well as sharing information about them. Suzie Bright is the sex advisor for the lesbian sex mag *On Our Backs*, and she also works for the San Francisco women's sex-toy store, *Good Vibrations*. She describes a letter she received from a dyke couple who said that their sex life was satisfying except for one tiny matter. "We seem to be suffering," they wrote, "with some hangover from our heterosexual past that makes us both want sensation in our vaginas apart from direct clitoral stimulation. As much as I try to put it out of my mind, this keeps coming up between us. Could you please send us some very discreet information about dildos?"



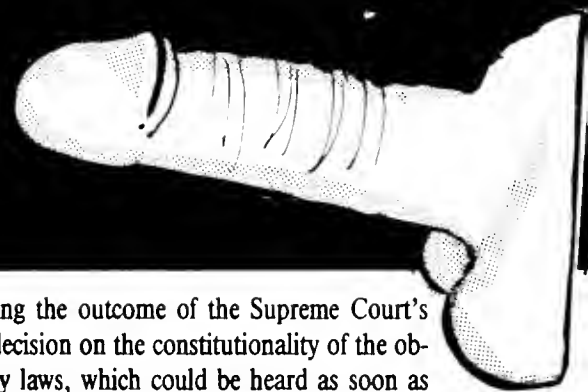
Bright replied, "Ladies, the discreet, complete and definitive information on dildos is this: penetration is as heterosexual as kissing! Now the truth can be known! Fucking knows no gender! Not only that, but penises can only be compared to dildos in the sense that they take up space. Aside from differences in shape and feel, the most glaring contrast is that the dildo is at your service; it knows no desire other than your own or your partner's."

It's not always easy to find the dildo of your fantasies, especially if you live in a small community. But there is an impressive array of the little (and not so little) delights available if you know where to look. They range in size from my first little four-inch vibrator to impossible things the size of your forearm.

Dildos, usually the vibrating type, may be made of hard plastic or combinations of plastic and metal. The latter can sometimes be bought in a kit with a variety of attachments and/or soft rubber sleeves. Those who are as interested in the insertable qualities of a dildo as in its vibrating qualities will probably prefer the more flexible la-

ING

Good little girls in search of that full-cunt feeling might check out Santa's line of dildos. A tour of the available insertables, by Chris Bearchell.



tex or silicone types. These range from six to ten inches in length and may or may not have a base: the ones actually meant for use are more likely to. The bases of some contain vibrators. While some latex or silicone dildos have bases that are shaped like balls and most come in "flesh tones," not all are replicas of cocks. (Beware the shoddily made novelty items — rubber cock as rubber snake — which lack firmness.) Some of the non-anatomical variety have a pebbled surface or textured tip or base, some are curved, others ribbed. Most that I've seen are part vibrator. Some may have batteries; others use direct current. But the proprietor of one neighbourhood sex shop told me he considered the latter a safety hazard and wouldn't stock them.

Many dildo enthusiasts want a toy that can be

one porn shop. Many have a boutique or two; some even have neighbourhood sex shops. And there is a thriving sex industry in western European cities. If you don't live in or near one of these centres, you either have to arrange to visit one or resort to mail order. I can never resist spending a little of my vacation money on visits to any interesting sex shops I can find. The luckiest of us find our way to alternative feminist sex-toy stores or the artisans' tent at the Michigan women's festival.

If you want to order by mail from companies

etc, wash them thoroughly and try them 'in' for size."

The sex boutique caters to people from all walks of life, which can be comforting to the nervous. Staff is usually friendly, and in some places, like the seven Love Shops in western Canada, have had training aimed at helping them answer your questions. You can expect to find high quality toys, although the tourist trade often demands a certain number of gags and novelties.

Not all sleazy bookstores carry sex toys and even some that do don't carry dildos (as a gay male friend lamented about the only sex-toy store in Kingston, Ontario). Often, if such a store is the only game in town, it too will have a wide variety of customers and you can expect helpful service from the staff if you present yourself as a serious customer, not just someone looking to be titillated by dirty jokes.

But this type of sex store can be the least accessible. Glaring light and locked display cases do not a comfortable atmosphere make. Times Square in Toronto is a case in point. The staff sometimes seem hostile to all of their customers, and they certainly don't go to any pains to make women or queers feel welcome. On the other hand, they have an incredibly wide selection, including such items as butt plugs. So if you want something you can't find anywhere else, check with them.

Your average neighbourhood sex shop falls somewhere between these two types. It's probably homier, with less display space. My current favourite, Lovers' Lane in Toronto, has a good selection of vibrators and dildos stacked up on a shelf like boxes of shoes. It's a bit pricier, but the staff is relaxed and helpful. This store stays away from videos and hardcore print material and is associated with an American company of sex toy producers/distributors called Ben Wa. Its window is full of lingerie, but the manager says that toys account for more than half the sales.

Most novelty-type sex toys originate in Hong Kong, but the best are produced by American artisans and western European companies. Given the state of the Canadian dollar, they are also the most expensive. While some of the distributors are Canadian, even their best products bear labels indicating that they are only jokes, and not meant to be used sexually.

Canadian distributors and retailers got a bit of a shock last year when the Supreme Court upheld a Quebec ruling that a cock-shaped dildo was an obscene publication. This may explain those tell-tale labels and the nervous surliness of the staff at places like Times Square. And friends tell me it has resulted in the Montreal gay sex shop Priape discontinuing its line of dildos.

According to Winnipeg lawyer Greg Brodsky, last year a Manitoba judge ruled that a dildo can be obscene, depending on where and how it is used. (This is the provincial court which, in the mid-Seventies, found a straight couple having oral sex in their kitchen — and who police viewed by peeking through a crack in the blind — guilty of gross indecency for engaging in "sex not in the marital bed.") The judge in that case is now the province's Chief Justice.)

An appeal of the decision in the dildo case is

awaiting the outcome of the Supreme Court's first decision on the constitutionality of the obscenity laws, which could be heard as soon as January. That case also involved the appeal of a Manitoba court decision that something could be found obscene on the basis of its sexual content alone rather than because it combined sex with such things as violence, horror or cruelty.

The state seems prepared to go to great lengths to control our desires and deprive us of our pleasure.

The first time my lover and I discussed sex toys — before we'd ever had sex — she said she couldn't imagine using them. But it didn't take long for the childhood joy of playing with toys to be reawakened in her. And now getting fucked with a dildo is one of her favourite ways to have fun.

You probably know already that dildos are not for everyone, or not for every sexual occasion. And that you don't necessarily have to make a trip to your local sex shop, or your refrigerator, to find new kinds of sex play. But if you're even slightly tempted by the thought, don't hold back. With the state, which isn't supposed to have any business in your bedroom, threatening to pay a visit any day now, you owe it to yourself to play while you can. ●

Prices and places:

Plastic dildos: Basic vibrator \$6 to \$15, plastic and metal vibrator \$12 to \$30. In kits (sleeves, attachments, lube) \$20 to \$50. **Silicone/latex:** Basic dildo \$20 to \$60. With vibrating base \$20 to \$30. With straps \$17 to \$70. Double dildos \$20 to \$90. **Dildo harnesses:** "Popular buckling" \$35 (US). Full body harness \$95 and up.

The Love Shop.* Head office: 574 Granville St., Vancouver BC V6C 1W6. (604) 669-6643. A new catalogue is in production; get on the mailing list for it.

Love Craft. 63 Yorkville Ave., Toronto ON M5R 1B7. (416) 923-7331. Planning to resume mail order sales of vibrators soon.

Lovers' Lane. 113 Roncesvalles Ave., Toronto ON M6R 2K9. (416) 535-4664.

The first time my lover and I discussed sex toys, she said she couldn't imagine using them. Now getting fucked with a dildo is one of her favourite ways to have fun.

Leather Craft.* 608 Yonge St., Toronto ON M4Y 1Z3. (416) 924-5018.

Good Vibrations.* 3416 22nd St., San Francisco CA 94110. (415) 550-7399.

Eve's Garden.* 1406-119 West 57th St., NY, NY. (212) 757-8651.

Stormy Leather. C/o Kathy Andrew, 4-60 Landers St., San Francisco, CA 94114. (415) 626-6783 for that famous buckling harness.

(*Catalogue available for a small fee.)

strapped on. My favourite, a moulded silicone number from Good Vibrations, is designed to fit into a harness. Harnesses, on the other hand, are not easy to come by. The "popular buckling harness," which is advertised in On Our Backs, gets mixed reviews. The ideal harness is custom-fitted. Toronto's Leathercraft makes a woman's full-body harness that accommodates a dildo. Some dildos or vibrator sheaths come with straps. Toronto's Lovcraft carries a serviceable-looking, West German dildo by Vital Hygiene that comes with straps and is padded.

Many of the items in this line of toys come in vibrator versions as well, including an elaborate double dildo that has gotten some good reviews from friends. Double dildos — some with connected bases, others one piece — range from 12 to 16 inches long. Some stores stock a brass-coloured version of Japanese ben wa balls, or such contraptions as a "butterfly" massager for constant genital stimulation. Lovcraft carries cute little travel kits consisting of a silver vibrator and a sleeve in a case.

Most big North American cities have at least

that advertise in the lesbian sex magazines but fear the arbitrary power of Canada Customs, you might (if you can afford the added expense) try to arrange to have your order shipped by courier. Then, if it's seized, it can be returned to the sender rather than becoming the property of Her Majesty the Queen.

"When I first thought of myself going into a 'dirty bookstore,' I got a mental picture of myself in a trench coat and a slouch hat with a piece of black tape over my eyes. So I got together a group of willing friends and marched in, head high, eyes steady with purpose, pretending furiously that we were a fact-finding mission from the local PTA." (Loving Women.)

It can help to go to a sex shop with a friend who has been before. Be prepared to spend money if you hope to buy a toy that you will enjoy using. And don't forget the water-soluble lube, especially if you want to enjoy your insertable anally. Prospective buyers who are concerned about size might want to heed this piece of folk wisdom from Loving Women: "To check the size of dildo you need, pick out some carrots, squash, cucumbers,

Living (safe) on video

**The AIDS years
are bringing
us a new
pornography
where sex is
certainly safe
— but is it
still fun?**

My conversion to safe sex was not an easy one. Some people who read this, even people very close to me, may be surprised and disturbed by this revelation. After all, I've known of AIDS for as long as anyone has. I've had friends and acquaintances die AIDS-related deaths, and I am employed at the AIDS Committee of Toronto. But I remained resistant to practising safe sex, angrily saw it as something keeping me from having free choice over what I did and didn't do in bed. And I continued to see AIDS as something that happened to other people. Because I'd had relatively few partners and little anal sex, I saw myself as spared in some way. I would merely choose partners that had had as few contacts as I.

Even when I began to see someone who demanded that we be safe, I was not immediately won over. I was really attached to the idea that someone has to come inside you for the sex to be "real." When we were having sex I would cheat — I wouldn't take my mouth from his cock when he was about to come. I'd position myself so that he couldn't push me off or away, or I'd sneakily lick the come off his belly after we'd jerked off together. Understandably, he'd get upset and so would I and we'd fight and it would remain unresolved. Finally we broke up — mostly but not completely for other reasons — then later on continued to have sex maybe once or twice a month. Somewhere in that period the transition occurred: I began to have exclusively safe sex with him, and with my other partners.

Despite this change, I still have negative feelings about some safe-sex practices. I don't like condoms or lubricants so I don't often have anal sex. I never use condoms in oral sex. Rather than

resort to Saran Wrap I've stopped rimming and being rimmed. Almost all of my sexual activity now consists of mutual masturbation, with oral sex up to — and ceasing before — orgasm.

I expressed interest in writing an overview of safe-sex erotica because I was curious about their effectiveness — both in providing information and as erotica. I was also curious about what they could give me — a gay man with anger and fear and irrational beliefs in "calculated risks" — to make me want to choose more wisely. I wondered if these videos and stories could help create a climate where safe sex is not something you're "into" like S/M, but something that encompasses everything you do without compromising any of it.

The materials I describe below are intended to "eroticize" safe sex, and in evaluating them I considered how informative and how persuasive each item was, keeping in mind my background at the AIDS Committee of Toronto as well as my own qualms about safe sex and my tastes in erotic materials. At times I called on other people to help me in these evaluations.

Safe-Sex Videos — Lifeguard and Inevitable Love

These two videos are commercial ventures, produced by gay porn video companies and featuring well-known gay porn performers. Lifeguard, written and directed by Richard Morgan and distributed by HIS Video, has an interesting ad campaign in gay porn magazines. "The safe-sex video," it calls itself, "A full-length video tape that makes safe sex fun!"

Well, fun it ain't. The opening credits feature a lifeguard masturbating. Typical porno disco music abounds on the soundtrack. The opening segment is about two men in a weight room, massaging each other, fondling each other on the bench press, moving on to some mutual masturbation. Not a word of dialogue. As they approach orgasm there is a transition from the music to a minute or two of moans and groans and then — neat trick — they come simultaneously.

Cut to Dr Robert K Bolan of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. He is dressed. He is alone in front of the camera. He is nervous. He tells us some pretty hard-line stuff about AIDS transmission and precautions and tells us that the video illustrates sex without exchange of *any* bodily fluids, not even saliva. My friends and I felt that you shouldn't ingest semen, urine, or blood, but we all admitted to sucking cock without condoms prior to orgasm — thus exposing ourselves to limited amounts of pre-come. Certainly we all took the comparatively low risk of exposure through open-mouthed kissing. Every item I viewed, however, had a slightly different definition of safe sex, and this video's guideline was particularly harsh.

After the welcome conclusion of Dr Bolan's address, there are five vignettes, all focussing on mutual masturbation. The final segment features a solitary man fantasizing a whole series of men in different uniforms — all of them masturbating. I said at the time that this was like watching hens on uppers laying eggs. One of our party replied that it wasn't even that exciting.

Inevitable Love has nobody's rubber stamp on it, and no references to being fun. Its catchline is "You never knew Healthy could be so Hot." Rather than have a spokesperson tell us the rules as Dr Bolan did in Lifeguard, a short prologue advises us about transmission and precautions but hints at gray areas (such as the possibility of exposure through saliva). That said, the video began with two young men wrestling. Their names are Hal and Gary, and they are best friends about to part — Hal to go to grad school, Gary to the army. From the way they wrestle, we know that love (or, given what we are watching, its physical approximation) is inevitable. Sure enough, each of them goes through men at a great rate, but an incredible series of coincidences brings them back together for a grand finale. Hal, the grad student, is the first one we see in action as he has sex with his spotter in the weight room. They kiss a lot, and with remarkable passion — more in five minutes than Lifeguard had in its entirety — and their activities include licking and sucking cock through gym shorts, one rubbing his cock between the other's thighs and so on.

Gary ends up roommates with a demoted ser-



Lifeguard: Harsh guidelines & hens on uppers

geant named (of course) Sarge, and his friend Lefty. They all, for no really good reason, end up putting on condoms (again, no one seems to know how to do it) and jerking off, then Gary fucks Lefty while Sarge looks on. Some time later, Sarge awakens a sleeping Gary, handcuffs him to the cot, and roughly fucks him. There is quite a variety of sexual activity, most of it involving and imaginative if occasionally forced — one character ties Hal to the bed and goes at him with feathery ferns, ice cubes and whipped cream on the toes — but we who were watching felt that an excess of ingenuity was better than none at all. The only real technical problem is, once again, the music. When Hal and Gary reunite and have at each other, the soundtrack led me to expect the arrival of the Princess of Jupiter.

by David Demchuk

Safe-Sex Videos —

All Hands on Dick and Chance of a Lifetime

All Hands on Dick and Chance of a Lifetime are two non-commercial video ventures meant for screening during group discussions of safe sex. They are still quite explicit — I don't suggest you bring Mom to any workshops where they might be shown.

All Hands on Dick is a short video made through the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco. It is a guide on how to hold a jack-off party in your own home, and ultimately becomes a documentary of a jack-off party held by the filmmakers and

"There are only so many ways to masturbate, and they tend to be more fun to do than to watch."

friends. As a guide on how to hold an orgy, it's a bit weak — we could have had more information on how to help guests overcome shyness, what kind of snacks were appropriate (no salty crackers or chips, I would think — maybe veggies and dip?). All of the helpful hints are lumped together at the beginning rather than scattered (and illustrated) throughout. As a documentary the video works better. While the lack of production values (some shaky camera work and editing, a definite "home movie" atmosphere) is irritating, I like the men — who are definitely not porn stars and so are easier to relate to — and the video's sense of humour and warmth. Still, it goes on too long — there are only so many ways to masturbate and they tend to be more fun to do than to watch. It would make a good facilitator at a J/O party, though (hint, hint).

Chance of a Lifetime is an educational tool for organizations doing community education work about AIDS. As you might expect, this video is very conservative in its description of safe-sex activities — only dry kissing is shown and partners wash before and after sexual contact. The first segment deals with a young man's anxiety about an approaching opportunity to have sex with someone he's been dating and how he can bring up the subject of safe sex. This is amusingly portrayed, and the subsequent encounter is tender and well-handled.

The second segment is an evening at the now-closed New York fuck-bar, the Mineshaft. It opens with a safe-sex orgy with S/M overtones. This sequence got high marks for shots of condoms being put on properly and being used with great enthusiasm. From there we move to an encounter between two men in another room who leave the bar and end up at an apartment where they engage in some bondage, wrestling, fucking with a condom and so on. While this section wasn't as involving, I found it effective and thought it would be persuasive to those who think safe sex and hot sex are incompatible.

The third sequence opened with a man jogging along the beach, thinking about his lover, who has just been released from hospital after a bout of PCP. He makes his way home to find said lover sunning by the side of the pool. They get playful and end up acting out a cowboy fantasy (a little daffy, but not the disaster it could have been). They recline by the poolside and rub their cocks together, then rest in each other's arms — a sex-positive scene that was sexy, tender and humor-

ous. Then, as they lay there, the one with AIDS starts to sing The Red River Valley — and to cry. I found this moment maudlin and somewhat embarrassing. The love scene and cowboy business were touching precisely because there was no underscoring of infirmity or fragility, and no need to pull at our emotions. This later scene left me feeling manipulated — not the intended result, I'm sure.

I couldn't fault Chance of a Lifetime for its professional look, but the extremely cautious attitude is dated (made during the height of the saliva scare, I was told) and that made its precautions difficult to buy into.

Safe-Sex Reading — Hot Living and Safestud

Hot Living is a collection of 17 erotic short stories featuring safe sex. The introduction by editor John Preston gives the guidelines under which the authors worked, and is one of the best parts of the book. Despite the inclusion of reputable writers (TR Witomski, Mach, John Preston, George Whitmore, Max Exander), the stories are mostly mediocre — some so self-consciously preachy as to be unreadable. Only one or two work well as good stories, good erotica and good information.

After Hot Living, I was reluctant to read much more safe-sex prose, but Safestud (the safe-sex chronicles of Max Exander) really surprised me. Exander, of course, is San Francisco's infamous — and, I presume, fictional — town pump, self-described as "just a horny fucker with a big dick." Yet he often takes time in his writing for some serious thought that somehow doesn't get in the way of the action.

More and more erotic writing with safe-sex themes is appearing in gay porn magazines — Advocate Men has gone so far as to include a regular column to which readers send their own sto-

ries, entitled The Best Safe Sex I've Ever Had. I'm impressed by this movement. Regardless of your feelings about porn, it's generally available at your corner store, and the inclusion of explicit and persuasive descriptions of safe sex in porn could reach an audience that might never go to their local AIDS Committee or receive information in any other way.

I certainly haven't exhausted the list of all available safe-sex material — though there are difficulties getting much of it into Canada. Sgt Swann (self-proclaimed Mr Safe Sex) has put out an explicit video entitled Sgt Swann's Fantasies. It incorporates scenes from his one-man show (stripping in a bar and sometimes masturbating for the crowd while talking about safe sex). There are other videos making references to safe sex, but some are really just compilations of footage of people masturbating — fine if you're into it but not particularly informative or imaginative.

Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York put out a Healthy Sex Calendar for 1986 full of excellent black and white photographs depicting different safe-sex activities. I'm hoping they'll do another for 1987, though enterprising souls may have to smuggle it across the border to avoid its being seized.

And a tabloid entitled The Hot and Healthy Times, put together by many of the same people who made All Hands on Dick, explicitly illustrates condom usage and discusses different kinds of condoms and lubricants. The Times was the basis for the AIDS Committee of Toronto's Condom Sense tabloid, available at the ACT office.

As more safe-sex erotica become available, we may see a greater diversity of images and messages. But it won't be until safe sex stops being an option and becomes the norm that our porn will

*You never knew Healthy could be so Hot.
You never knew Love could be...*



Inevitable: Music for the Princess of Jupiter

be relieved of the need to moralize or romanticize. Here's to that day. ●

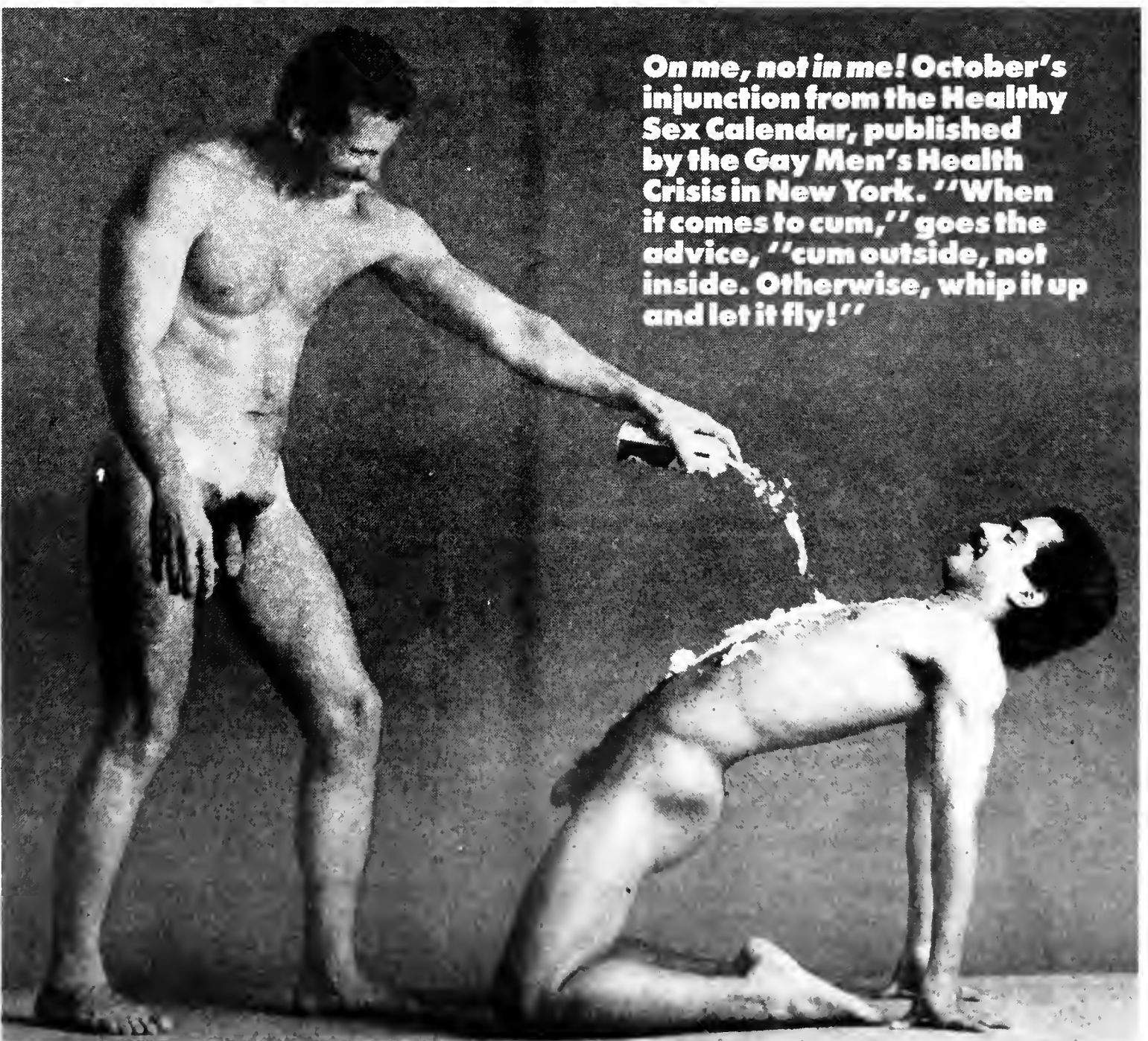
Lifeguard. HIS Video, 9333 Oso Ave, Chatsworth, CA 91311-6098. List price, \$39.95 (US).

Inevitable Love. Intelligence in Video, Box 1107, New York, NY 10023. List price, \$75 (US).

All Hands on Dick. Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, 1523 Franklin St, San Francisco, CA 94109. List price, \$24.95 (US) plus \$2 postage. Cheques made out to Exodus Trust AIDS Prevention Project.

Chance of a Lifetime. Gay Men's Health Crisis, Box 274, 132 West 24th St, New York, NY 10011. List price, \$50 (US). Available only to organizations that carry on program concerned with community education about AIDS or services to and for people with AIDS and/or health concerns of the public at large.

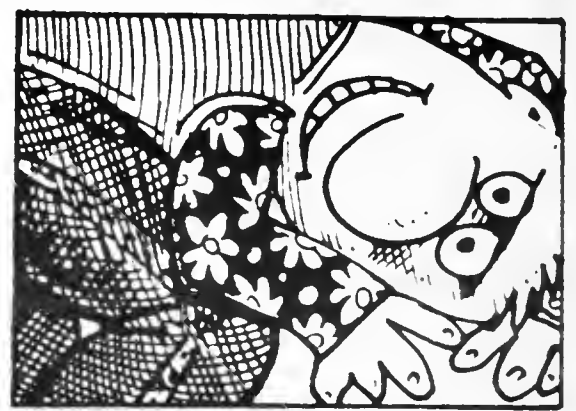
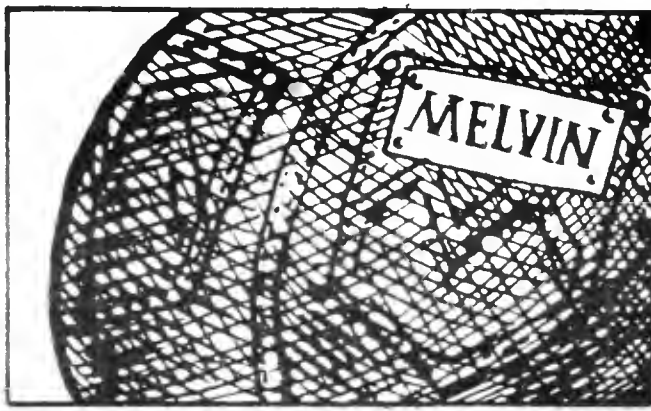
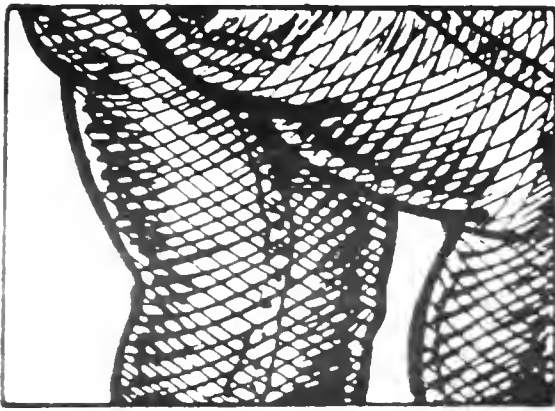
Hot Living edited by John Preston. Alyson Publications Inc, 40 Plympton St, Boston, MA 02118. \$13.95. **Safestud** by Max Exander. Alyson Publications Inc, 40 Plympton St, Boston, MA 02118. \$11.95.



On me, not in me! October's injunction from the Healthy Sex Calendar, published by the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York. "When it comes to cum," goes the advice, "cum outside, not inside. Otherwise, whip it up and let it fly!"

GERTRUDE'S follies

TOM
HACHTMAN



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So, get out those left-over postcards from Miami, soak up the scenario below, and give your poison pen a workout! Just make sure we get them before January 2!

Send your postcard to:

Postcard Poison, Box 7289, Stn A, Toronto ON M5W 1X9.

Here at last. Tropical Waikiki. Sigh! Straight from the airport, a quick detour through the hotel and then — bang — a bee-line to the beach. Flown in and flaked out.

As you lie there, exhausted, soaking up the atmosphere and all those lovely carcinogens, you can't help but ask yourself "Did I do the right thing?" You look around. Hot sand. Hotter bodies. Somehow the answer is "yes!" Sigh! You wonder what the pale folks are doing back home?

Imagine coming home, cold, snowy, (damn those Canadian winters) and finding your lover in bed with someone else! You stand there. Watching. Angry and dripping on the carpet. You called the boss ("I'm taking a vacation. Bye."), grabbed your stuff, and told them to "Fuck Off!" Though that is what they were doing.

So here you are. About to have the time of your life. (Hi-ho, life in the fast lane.) After all, there's no point being gay if you can't live dangerously.

Why not send them a postcard. Yeah, yeah, that's it. Tell 'em how much you miss 'em. Ha! Something pithy yet vitriolic (always a great combo). But where to start? (I know, first get the sand out of the pen.)

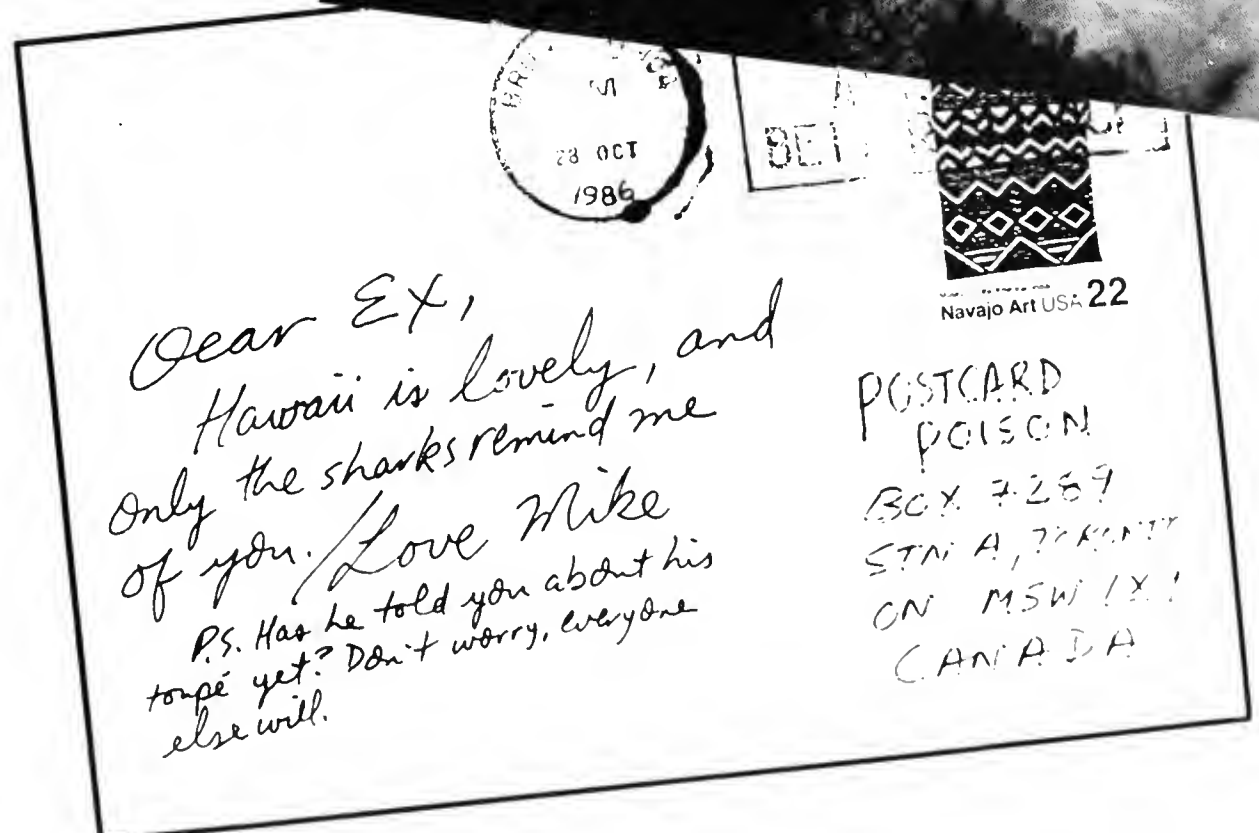


Image-conscious

Toronto's first international festival of gay cinema spread 31 films over 10 days of first-class, world entertainment

In mid-November, Toronto celebrated its first international festival of gay cinema. Sponsored by Xtra, the city's bi-weekly gay entertainment magazine, Inverted Image gave an opportunity to view how gay people around the world perceive themselves on film, and featured rarely seen works by the world's foremost gay directors. Only eight of the thirty-one films scheduled for the 10-day event are currently in distribution in Canada, and several are receiving their Canadian premieres.

This first annual festival was organized by James Quandt, film programmer for Harbourfront, a cultural and recreational centre on Toronto's downtown waterfront. Though the idea for a gay film festival has been floating around the city for many years, this is the first time one has actually materialized. Gay film festivals are well established in New York, San Francisco, Paris, London and Oslo.

Quandt assembled the group of films with the aid of embassies and cultural agencies from France, Great Britain, Denmark, the Netherlands and West Germany. Many of the films he's seen himself, but some he's simply read about for many years in film journals and magazines.

The films range from the experimental to the (almost) mainstream. Two of the entries — Doña Herlinda and Her Son and Pervola, Tracks in the Snow — are both intended for major release across Canada.

"Because these films go back as far as 1979, you see a progression in candidness," Quandt says. "Gay films are becoming more fun. And very few of them in this festival end with dead homosexuals. That's quite an amazing development, considering that death or suicide was once the stock ending for a film that included a gay character. In the new popular gay cinema, with films like Desert Hearts, My Beautiful Laundrette and Parting Glances, we can actually see happy endings."

There's also a trend for gay filmmakers to explore the experimental film style. Featured was Derek Jarman's The Angelic Conversation, an avant-garde interpretation of Shakespeare's love sonnets set to beautiful Kenneth Anger-like im-

ages. Jarman is also the director of Caravaggio and Sebastiane. Another experimental film of note is Casta Diva, by Dutch filmmaker Eric de Kuiper. Though some may find it tedious, the film's 107 minutes are spent in simple observation of men in everyday activities — eating, lounging, changing a lightbulb, dressing, undressing. With a score of operatic arias and pop tunes, the film juxtaposes the sublime with the banal and achieves a great eroticism.

On the more realistic side is Forty Deuce, a film by Paul Morrissey (the infamous director of Mixed Blood), based on the stage play about Times Square hustlers who try to frame a businessman for murder. Kevin Bacon and Orson Bean star. Of particular interest was the rarely screened Victim, a 1961 British film about the blackmailing of homosexuals. The film made such a strong statement, it helped set the social atmosphere for the decriminalization of homosexual activity in Britain.

There was comedy as well, in such films as The Sprinter, about a young man from a prominent family who tries to go straight by dating a female discus thrower. Canadian Laurie Lynd made the 30-minute Together and Apart, a startling, witty and thoroughly enjoyable musical about a dinner party that brings two ex-lovers together.

One of Germany's most controversial gay film directors, Rosa von Praunheim was in attendance at the festival and was paid tribute with a four-film retrospective. Praunheim is known as a radical gay activist and he has a history of enraging gay people taking on respectable heterosexual and patriarchal values like monogamy. In Army of Lovers, he gives the spotlight to groups of pederasts, gay Nazis and narcissistic porn stars. His Virus Knows No Morals is a savagely funny black comedy about AIDS.

The majority of films in the Inverted Image festival were about gay men. Quandt points out that many of the great films about lesbians he'd chosen were booked for other festivals, though he hopes to obtain them for next year. "I tried to get a wonderful Hungarian film called Another Way, but I was told by their embassy that it wasn't

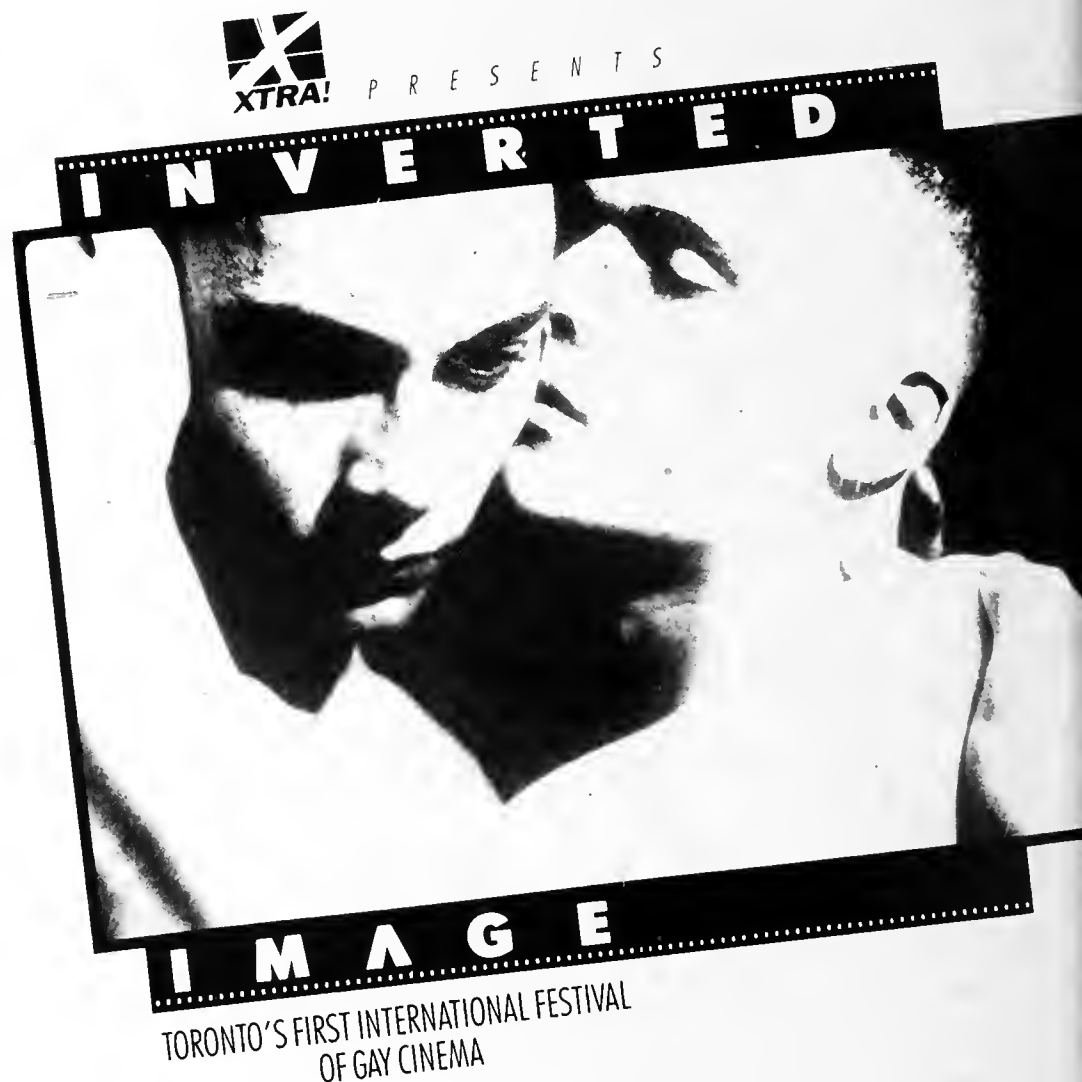
available. Since then, I've spoken with other gay festivals who request it every year and they're turned down as well. It seems the Hungarian government is uncomfortable with the film."

In addition to four short films for women screened November 11, a highlight was the exceptionally good feature, Novembermoon, made by West German Alexandra von Grote, about a love affair between two women in Nazi-occupied France.

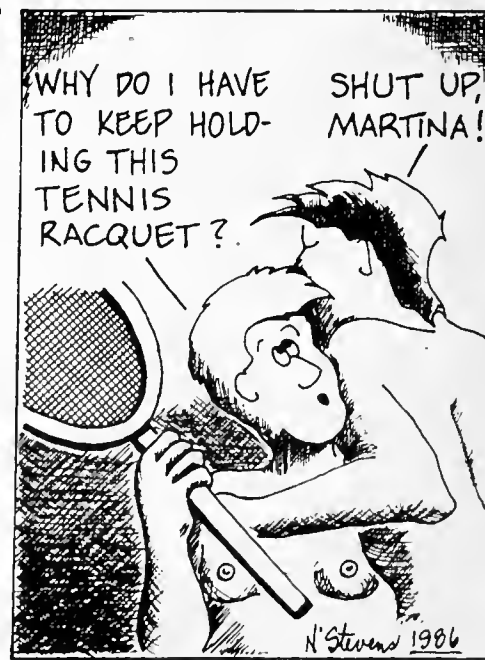
At the time of this writing, before the festival has actually taken place, the threat of censorship

by the Ontario Film Review Board is a dark cloud hovering over the event. For one-time screenings at festivals such as this, the Board asks for detailed written descriptions of films, and most of the time, the board simply stamps the films for approval. But gay content is a red flag for the Board and the films may be in jeopardy — though in Quandt's opinion none of them is particularly shocking.

Quandt is determined to make Inverted Image an annual festival, of the stature of New York's and San Francisco's. *Warren Dunford*



LESBIAN FANTASY no. 1



by Noreen Stevens

N. Stevens 1986

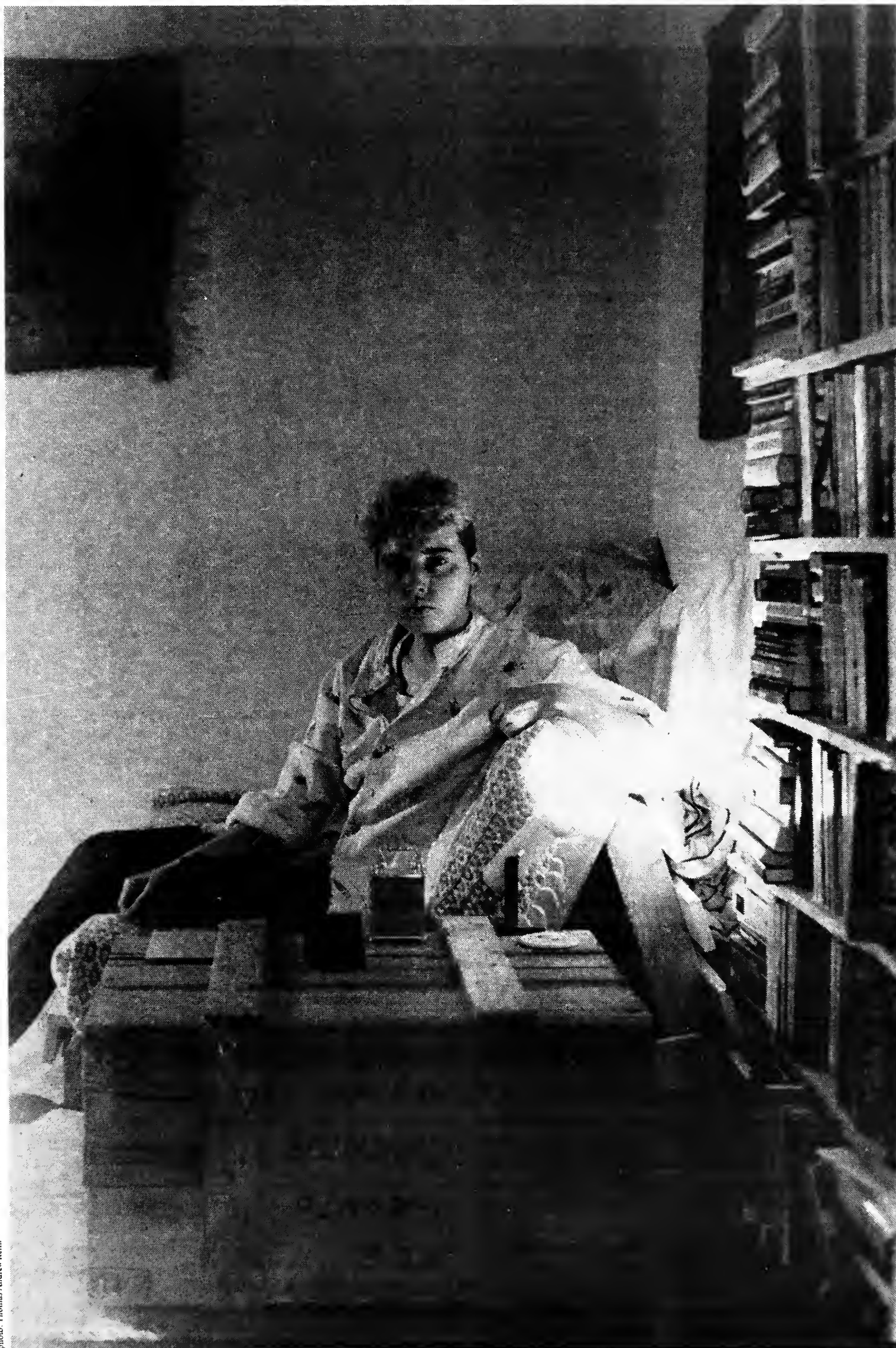


photo: Thomas Andrew Keith

ARCHEOLOGIES

Name: April Hubert

Date: October 25, 1986

Time: 6:30 pm

Occupation: Apprentice potter, specializing in ceramic vessels. Part-time student in feminism at the University of Toronto.

Style of Dwelling: A bachelor apartment with separate kitchen and bathroom. Living/bedroom of the dimensions 10 by 9 feet.

Number of books contained within living/bedroom: 1,423.

Authors with more than 5 books to their name in the collection: Virginia Woolf — 32, including the complete Penguin

diaries (5 volumes) and the complete Hogarth Press letters (6 volumes); de Beauvoir — 11 works; Freud — 13 works; Jung — 9 works; Marie-Claire Blais — 9 works, in French and English.

Most recently purchased book: An autographed volume of love poems by Suniti Namjoshi and Gillian Hanscombe.

Assorted pieces of furniture: Six wooden packing crates for furniture/storage; one futon and pine frame; four woven rugs — two mounted on the walls, one on the floor, and one

used as futon cover; one beach chair, fondly referred to as the Virginia Woolf chair.

Other assorted contents of the apartment: Two pictures of James Dean, mounted on the walls; eight Teddy Bears, all measuring under a foot in length; two live cats, one male and one female; one large Teddy Bear hidden in one wooden storage crate; six small table clocks; seven wrist watches, all running within five minutes of each other; one cassette deck with 278 cassettes.

Music played at time of photo: A pre-recorded tape of CBC-FM. ●



Not so subliminal: This seductive set-up isn't the opener to a scenario that has these boys out of their cords and levis by page four. It's straight from this year's fall catalogue published by Mark's Work Wearhouse — which features lotsa guys campin', skiin', tryin' on boots, shakin' hands, eatin' hot dogs. Available at 96 Mark's Work Wearhouse outlets across Canada — or by mail from 40-1035 64th Ave SE, Calgary AB T2H 2J7. And we'd heard one-night stands were out of fashion!

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2. Leave your copy of Engorged Nipple, the collected poems of Irene Von Groot, an Armenian lesbian poet, on the coffee table. When your mother finds it say, "Sorry, I thought it was *your* copy."
3. Mince words.
4. Wrap all your presents in fuchsia.
5. Whenever possible, be cryptic.
6. Compliment your mother repeatedly on her fruit-cake.

7. If your home life is becoming too intense — shriek loudly, then threaten to put your head in your niece's Easy-Bake oven.
8. Use big words.
9. Wear sequins.
10. Rename the family dog Tallulah.
11. Redecorate the family crèche.
12. Cruise your brother-in-law.
13. As a gesture of good faith, dye your hair back to its natural colour — but out of spite pierce your nostril.
14. With as straight a face as possible, tell your family: "Homosexuality, it's just a fad and like last year's paisley it'll be out of vogue within the next three months." Then giggle.
15. Wear your lover's monogrammed shirt.
16. Tell your family that you had privately decided that if they had given you what you had *really* wanted for Christmas you would have gone straight. But they didn't — so too bad.

Vim Wilfred •



la Conciergerie

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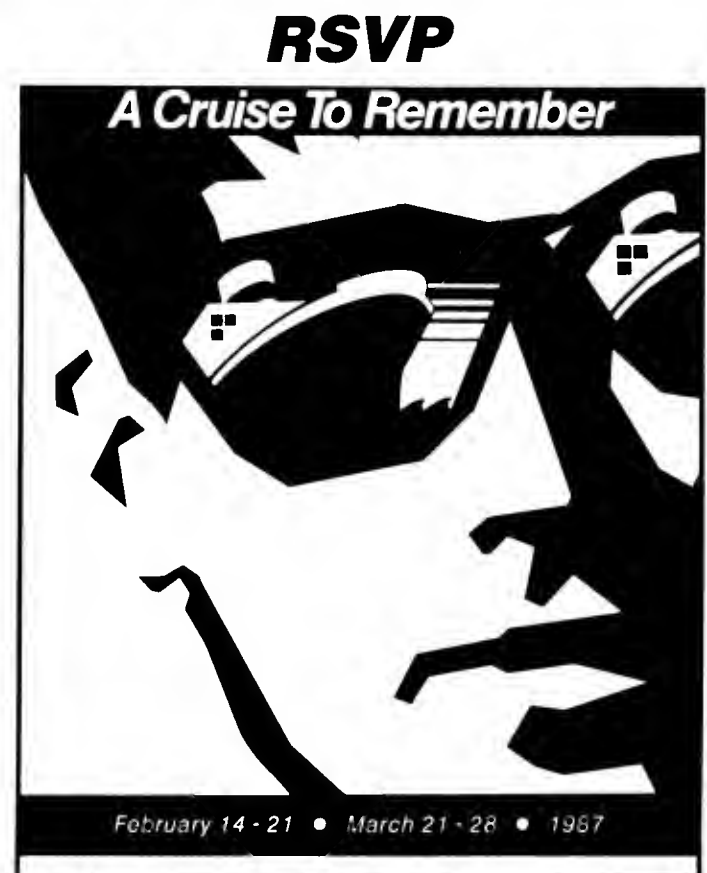
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Three out of ten

First novel tackles the lives of young male hustlers — but doesn't score

One Out of Four by Donald Martin. Introduction by Scott Symons. Coach House Press (Toronto), 1986. \$12.50.

Thomas Andrew Keith •

A few weeks ago, while I was out for lunch, I unintentionally overheard part of a conversation taking place at the table directly beside me.

"When did they pick him up?"

"Three days ago — on Breadalbane."

"Well, why didn't he call us before, huh?"

"They wouldn't let 'im. They just wouldn't. They kept 'im there three days — without a call."

"So where is he now? Did he just get out?"

"Yeah, this mornin' — and he called right away. I told 'im we'd buy lunch for 'im. He can't go back to work yet, they'll be lookin' for 'im."

"Well, what's he supposed to do for money. He's gotta go back. He's got no place to stay and he needs the cash."

I stopped listening, and continued on with the book I was reading. I had almost finished Donald Martin's recently published first novel, *One Out of Four* — a fictional account (but rumoured

to be partly autobiographical) of the lives of four hustlers in Detroit.

One Out of Four is the usual quest-for-survival tale in which four boys work together against the odds as high-class meat, working for a five-star escort service. These boys' days are numbered, and it seems that this is not only the theme, but the moral as well. If you sell your body for sex, well, in the end you'll pay for it.

In the conversation I overheard in the restaurant, I could sense an instinct for survival. The three young men really needed the money — for food, for a roof over their heads, perhaps for oth-

er reasons. Hustling was something they could do — something they could get paid for doing. And for whatever reasons, hustling happened to be their job — their way of surviving.

In *One Out of Four* there is absolutely no reason for what these four boys do. Martin has given his readers cardboard cutouts as characters. Their names, their physiques, their sexual tastes, are all ones a reader could find in any porn magazine — except the magazine would provide a much more agreeable fantasy at a fraction of the price.

The first character we meet, and the one out of four to survive, is Daniel — a blond, Jewish prince from Montreal. Chuck is the hot stud from Texas, complete with the usual "everything's-big-in" dick of death. From Cleveland (Cleveland?) comes the let's-not-forget-the-ethnic character, Bart. He's an overweight but somehow attractive Pole, whose only motive for anything he does in the entire book seems to be his



passionate hatred of cabbage rolls. So we have the pretty-boy angel, the hot stud and the tragic ethnic. What's missing? A drag queen, of course. So, from Kansas City with ruby slippers in tow comes Benjamin, the young "woman trapped inside a man's body," whose claim to fame is that he can do a great drag version of Streisand singing *People*.

But my favourite character is Rubenstein, the drama teacher at Wayne State who has both Daniel and Benjamin in her class. She's a bellowing Jewish bull dyke who wears dresses and army boots — and eventually falls quite crazily in love with Benjamin(a) in drag. Delicate.

There's a plot — the suspense/crime/thriller type, that brings the four boys together in the employ of crime king-pin Tony Pilanzo, stirs in a little drug dealing, adds one or two American senators and, just in case that wasn't quite enough, tosses in one chopped-off penis.

Novelist Scott Symons's introduction is extraordinarily defensive. He describes Martin's writing as "a combination of Jean Genet, William Burroughs and a medieval morality play," and that's pure bunk. As is my usual practice, I left his introduction until after I had read the book. I wish I had read it first — I wouldn't have wasted my time on the remaining 245 pages. •

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TORONTO

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MALE OR FEMALE WANTED to watch my bottom man in ultra heavy C/B and T/A workout. Participation an option. (416) 923-0932 or Drawer G372.

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BLOND, 33, ENGLISH MALE seeks female, 28 to 35 yrs, share 3-bedroom bungalow in Pointe Claire. Must like children. Single parent welcome. Drawer G369.

TORONTO

GAY FEMALE, 33, LONELY
LOOKING FOR SAME, FOR FRIENDSHIP and fun. Am sincere with a sense of humour. Do you enjoy the basics? Then let's get together and see what happens. Drawer G395.

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AUSTRALIAN MALE, 42, 5'11" 156 lbs, active, dominant, seeks younger submissive guys, any nationality, into B/D, W/S, F/F, CBT, T/T, dildos, shaving and more. For correspondence initially, with meeting possible at later date. Photo with reply, please. Respond now to: Allan, Box 190, Milson's Point, NSW 2061 AUSTRALIA.

SOUTH AFRICAN GAY MALE, 21, looking for pen pals about the same age. I am interested in music, art, books, photography, tennis and hockey. Would like to correspond with people from any race group. Please write to 81207284 BG, Pte PS Meinhold, E Company, Platoon 20, Basic Training Branch, Personnel Service School, Private Bag X1024, Voortrkharboogte, 0143 SOUTH AFRICA. (PS. I am in the army for two years as it is compulsory for all males here.)

BELGIAN GAY MALE, 24, looking for Canadian friends. I work as an administration manager and am interested in fitness, writing, travelling, changing ideas and nature. I speak Dutch, but I write in English, French and German. If you are interested, please write Alain Haegens, Brielstraat 23, 9280 Overmore Donk, BELGIUM.

GWM PROFESSIONAL, 28

WOULD LIKE TO CORRESPOND with other young males about hot sex. Nude photos desired. Trade mags and perhaps videos. Discretion assured and expected. Drawer G408.

CUBAN GUY, 24, brown eyes, black hair, geology student. I would like to find out more about gay life in Canada and abroad. In my country, gay magazines and organizations are prohibited, so I often find myself isolated. I can speak Spanish, English and German. Please write Mario Lorenzo Fonseca, Apartado 102, Z Postal Habana 1, CUBA.

FILLIPINO MALE, 20, loves basketball and swimming, looking for understanding and sincere friends in Canada. Will be relocating to Canada in 1987. Please reply to Joselito G Villarias, 154 H, Jalandon St, Purok Pilit, Bacalod City 6001, PHILLIPINES.

ENGLAND

MASTER TRAVELLING TO LONDON, Birmingham, England in March. Seeks submissives, B/D, S/M, T/T, F/F, spanking, wax. Detailed reply with phone. Drawer G384.

CANADA

SEEK TOP OR DAD anywhere. I can travel extensively. Would like to relocate for a monogamous, health-conscious and fun relationship. I'm 41, 5'11" 175, bald, beard, honest, quiet, positive and willing to please. Box 601, Montreal QB H2L 4L5.

YUKON

LET'S TALK

GWM, MID 40's, SEEKS FRIEND/COMPANION to share life's experiences. Age, race unimportant; compassion, stability, understanding and ability to share are important. Drawer G407.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP: GM, 37, medium build, professional, responsible, reasonably sane, happy, loving, seeking similar man nearby. Anyone else here? Please contact. We'll talk. Drawer G400.

CALGARY

GOM, 27, LIKES READING, MUSIC, movies, seeks males with similar interests for friendship. Serious replies only. No one-night stands. Drawer G388.

SINCERE, ATTRACTIVE, HEALTHY and fit. Professional GWM, 39, 6' 170 lbs, seeks similar responsible Calgarian, 35-45, for caring, supportive, monogamous relationship. Serious replies only. Drawer G340.

EDMONTON

GWM SEEKS ORIENTAL friends, especially tutor in Japanese. I'm 40, professional, aerobics enthusiast, traveller, enjoy movies and theatre. Discretion assured. Drawer G386.

EDMONTON AND AREA: GWM, 30, 5'11" 165 lbs, professionally employed. Seeks masculine male who values humour, warmth, sensitivity; for companionship. Have varied interests, from racquetball to theatre. Detailed letter appreciated. Drawer G370.

HAMILTON

AVERAGE GUY, MASCULINE appearance, 6' 175 lbs, 60, retired, moderate income, would like to meet someone around the same age for friendship. Have easy-going nature, wide and varied interests and enjoy quiet home life. Would be understanding of any special interests you may have. Drawer G379.

SUDBURY

LOOKING FOR GAY MALES in Sudbury area. I like fishing, travelling, and movies. Looking for someone who is over 35 and discreet. If possible, please send photo and phone. Drawer G397.

PHOTO: ALLYSON MCLAUGHLIN



SOUTHERN ONTARIO

SPANKING — OTTAWA/SUDBURY: Businessman, 34, slim, who travels, wants your bare bottom; send detailed letter, your desires, address, photo if possible; Drawer G319.

CHUBBY GWM COUPLE, 30 and 50, wish to meet couples aged 35 and up, in southern Ontario, for friendship and good times. Everyone answered. Photo appreciated. Drawer G392.

HAMILTON HUNK

I'M NOT MR WONDERFUL AND I'm not Mr Average. I'm just a regular sort of fellow and I'm looking for the same. I'm in my early 30s, 5'6", dark hair and moustache, seeking mature, easy-going guy with whom a friendship or monogamous relationship may develop. Could be a wonderful present for under your Christmas tree. Take a chance and tell me what you would like for Christmas. Remember, Christmas only comes once a year. Drawer G403.

ATTRACTIVE, STRAIGHT-LOOKING long-haired GWM couple, 26 & 23, into fitness, seeking masculine young men for partying and safe sex. From Niagara area to Toronto. Your photo gets ours. All answered. Drawer G399.

45-YEAR-OLD MASTER and 24-year-old son seeking hairy bottom for shaving, B/D, C&BT, short haircut. Age no barrier, part-time — or permanent possible. No heavy S/M. Drawer G383.

OTTAWA

ARE YOU TIRED OF CRUISING?

NATURAL BLOND MALE, 29, seeking unattached tall dark-haired male for possible relationship. Reply: Mark, Box 2280, Stn D, Ottawa ON K1P 5W4

THIS AD COULD BE FOR YOU:

IF YOU WISH TO nurture a possible relationship with a shy young male (25) who seeks a man in his life. Reply: Scott, Box 2280, Stn D, Ottawa ON K1P 5W4.

PASSING BY OR LIVING HERE?

MALE 30, STRAIGHT-ACTING/APPEARING, discreet, honest, seeks businessmen, truckers, vacationers, who are clean, healthy and into safe sex! Box 3400, Stn D, Ottawa K1P 6H8.

HOT TIMES NEEDED

SUBMISSIVE MALE, 33, 5'11" 170 lbs, needs dominant, imaginative man to explore bondage, TT, C&BT, wax, enemas, dildos, shaving, recycled beer and or? Please write and tell me you plans. Drawer G220.

NOVA SCOTIA

VERSATILE MAN, PHYSICALLY FIT, seeks Acadia University students for fun times. Discretion assured and expected. Could lead to a relationship. Please reply Drawer G375. Thanks.

GWM, 43, NEW to Dartmouth, well-endowed, deep-throat, versatile. Interests: cooking, movies, time in country. All replies with photo answered. Box 302, Dartmouth Main PO, Dartmouth NS B2Y 3Y5.

WANTED BIG MASCULINE MAN

NOVA SCOTIA BiBM, 24, 190 lbs, brown hair and eyes, good-looking, straight-acting, seeks handsome man for honest relationship. Ages 20-35. Send photo and phone. Drawer G387.

HALIFAX

STATUS INDIANS (!)

NON-STATUS BOYS WELCOME, too. Would like to adopt native boy. I am for peace, socialism, like to take you to Cuba, but must correspond by letter and/or phone for awhile to avoid past pains and grief. I'm crazy about strong, masculine Native kids with nut brown skin, dark angry eyes, in he-man, faded, designer jeans, but will answer everyone of any age. Not home 80% of the time, but answering machine will give hour and day of my return. Phone (902) 423-7771 (Halifax NS) or write Drawer G378.

ST JOHN'S

ONE ON ONE

LOOKING FOR FRIENDSHIP (and ?) with a guy who enjoys quiet times and one on one relationship. I'm 34, 6'1" 175 lbs, dark hair and hazel eyes. I enjoy recreational sports, such as tossing around a football or softball. Other interests include camping and photography. You should be of similar mind, be between 25 and 35 and in good shape. We could start as friends and see what happens. Discretion assured and expected. Pen pals welcome. Drawer G378.

TORONTO

FUN SEX

AM A HOT GUY, 5'11" 145 lbs, 29, handsome. Seeks a guy to meet for kinky, hot sex/friendship. No commitments, just great fun. Photo gets mine. Drawer G184.

AN ATTRACTIVE CHINESE who believes in sharing seeks friendship, possible relationship, with male 20-35, all races. I am caring, stable, honest, and have a sense of humour with the right person. Drawer G264

HAPPY, HEALTHY, SANE

VERY ATTRACTIVE GWM now 30+ desir. monogamous relationship (really!) 5'10" 140 lbs, professional, reasonably affluent, bilingual, liberal, seeks similar young or young-looking intelligent, witty, non-religious partner. For winners only! Drawer G29

HOT, HORNY GWM COUPLE now preparing for cold winter: is looking for singles couples to generate heat and light up the nights. Write and tell us about your talents. Drawer G320

MASCULINE PROFESSIONAL AFFECTIONATE MALE, 38 5'10" 180 lbs, non-smoker, moustache, cut, seeks similar responsible, muscular male 28-42 friendship. Interests: world-wide travel, nature, sky diving, swimming, scuba-diving, cycling, aerobics, weight lifting, theatre, classical music, movies. All letters with phone and preferably photo answered. Drawer G32

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

IF THIS IS also your goal I would love to work towards a committed monogamous relationship. GWM, 42, 5'11" 175 lbs, clean-shaven, healthy, smoker, established, presentable, literate human. My interests: science, reading, chess, rowing, cycling, movies, music (classical, pop), T.M. concerts, human development, computers, travels. Sexually secure, but not part of downtown bar scene. Your Preference: bright, fit, stable, non-smoker, old enough to know what you want, mature enough to work with me to achieve it. A detailed letter with picture could be the start of something great. Maybe the best Christmas ever? Drawer G336

VERY HAIRY OLDER GUY (42 up) sought by affectionate good-looking artist (mid-50s) for company and the occasional crowd. Outsize moustache, fluent Spanish, sense of humour optional but nice. Photo, please (returned). Discretion assured. Drawer G339.

GWM, TWENTIES, SINCERE, young, clean cut, hairy, well-built, friendly, handsome, stable, enjoys being sucked, serviced, mutual J/O. Safe sex. Drawer G341

GWM, 34, 5'7" 140 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, good looking, flight attendant. Would enjoy meeting someone who is attractive and interesting, who could cope with an erratic schedule. Have been in Canada 10 years. I don't go to bars. I enjoy my homelife when I'm here. Can talk about most topics, music, travelling and working out at the gym. Would enjoy meeting someone to 34. Will answer those with photo, and return if desired. Have no racial or religious hangups. Drawer G342.

TALL SLIMEUROPEAN, 27, likes honesty, monogamy, movies, cycling, wants to meet black or white male interested in working at a relationship. Drawer G344.

December

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The Organization Committee for the Bowl A Thon for Aids 86 wishes to thank the following individuals and businesses for making the Bowl A Thon a success

- Ms Anne Johnston — Honor Chairperson
- AIDS Committee of Toronto — Records and T-shirts
- Brandt Meat and Delicatessen (530 Church St, Toronto) — \$25 gift certificate
- Canadian Opera Company — 2 tickets for La Traviata
- CN Tower — Four admission passes
- Carlton Inn (Toronto) — Weekend accomodation for two
- Centre Stage Company — Two tickets
- Chin, Doug — \$50
- Cultures Fresh Food Restaurants — 10 \$2 certificates
- Decor Accessories (351 Harbord St, Toronto) — \$50 gift certificate
- Endicott, Paul W, Design Consultant (666 Queen St E, Toronto) — Floral arrangement
- Fare Exchange Cafe (4 Irwin St, Toronto) — Dinner for two
- Griffon Arms Dining Lounge (117 Dundas St E, Toronto) — Dinner for two
- His Majesty's Feast (1926 Lakeshore Blvd, West Toronto) — Dinner for two
- La Conciergerie (Montreal) — Two nights accomodation for two
- Leathercraft (608 Yonge St, Toronto) — \$50 gift certificate
- Le Papillon Dining Room (106 Front St E, Toronto) — Dinner for two
- Murphy, Rose — \$50
- Nordair — Trip for two to Montreal
- Oscar's (177 Church St, Toronto) — Dinner for two
- Pizza Nova (566 Church St, Toronto) — Two vouchers
- Ryerson Copy Shop (113 Bond St, Toronto) — Personalized business cards
- Selby Hotel (592 Sherbourne St, Toronto) — One night accomodation for two
- Solar Stage (First Canadian Place, Toronto) — Two season's tickets
- Strand, The Workout, Studio 210 (40 Lombard St, Toronto) — 10 free class vouchers
- Taylor, Dana — \$50
- TRAX Toronto (529 Yonge St, Toronto) — \$100
- Tri-Aid Charitable Foundation — \$100

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Doug Chin, Chairman Bowl A Thon for AIDS 86

CAPRICORN MALE, 46, non-smoker, warm, trusting and sincere, likes massage, aerobics, spirituality, monogamy seeks active male, 45-55, black or white, for meaningful friendship. Drawer G345.

GWM, MID-30s, ATTRACTIVE, with versatile buns looking for long or thick cocks while in Toronto in late December. Reply with particulars, address, telephone number. Drawer G346.

2 LOVERS SEEK SAME FOR SEX

GWM COUPLE, 22 + 28, seeks male couples for sex, under 30, well-hung, both blond, good-looking. Please respond with picture. All letters will be answered. Drawer G348.

GAY ORIENTAL MALE, mid-20s, 5'5" 130 lbs. Sincere, kind, attractive; seek white male to 35 for friendship and possible relationship. Reply with letter of description of yourself and phone number. Write Drawer G361.

SEX 70 KM NORTH OF TORONTO

MATURE GWM, SLIM, tanned and discreet needs young, horny lover any race for safe hot sex/friendship. Not into drugs and non-smoker. Firm outstanding tits and 7" uncut to work on. Turn-on letter with phone number and photo if available to Drawer G317 brings immediate reply.

CUTE 22-YEAR-OLD STUDENT seeks strict, masculine, muscular "father" to 35, for spankings and companionship. Drawer G367.

GOOD-LOOKING MAN, 36, 5'8" 140 lbs, shy, boyish, hung big. Likes passive, docile men, taller than myself and physically big. You may be overweight, but you've got tree trunk thighs, gigantic firm buns and an eager pulsing asshole. Size of penis unimportant as I'm only interested in fingering, stroking, spanking and fucking your big bum. Safe sex. Drawer G368.

BOXERS WANTED

GWM, 38, 6' 160 lbs, top shape, trained boxer, looking for opponents for friendly or competitive bouts. (416) 920-4893.

MAN LOVING MEN LOVING MAN

GAY MALE, 27, 5'7", fit, interactive mentally and physically, seeks same, 21-30. My interests are varied and include the arts, culture, politics and people. I'm quite bored with the bars. Wish to meet attractive, sane, intelligent young man to be my friend, possibly lover. My needs are simple: love and warmth. I offer both and more to a special man. Drawer G371.

WHAT IS THE MOST interesting thing you have done with your piss? **GWM**, 36, 6' 170 lbs, moustache, into watersports, rimming and fantasy scenes. Drawer G373.

FUN LOVING, SENSUAL, masculine, macrobiotic man, 22, seeks strong, handsome, honest, athletic man as soulmate. Sense of humour and love of outdoors a must. Interests include Tai Chi, Zen, funk music and motorcycles. I am waiting patiently for your sincere reply. Drawer G374.

PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE STUDENT, white male 33, 5'9" 160 lbs, seeking guys of any age who would desire a free professional massage, providing me with the practice I need to graduate. Will answer all replies. Drawer G376.

HOT & READY

GWM, 37, 5'6" 155 lbs, seeks a male for long sexual sessions. Into jerk-off and safe-sex suck. Prefer male, 21-34, who is well-hung, cut and has bushy cock hair. Should be casual in bleached jeans and bikini briefs. Must have own place. Send detailed letter with phone. Drawer G377.

GWM, 25, 5'7", SLIM, shoulder length brown hair, brown eyes, attractive but not GQ, relaxed, casual lifestyle, varied interests. Wish to meet an attractive confident, stable individual 23-35 for occasional dating, etc., future possibilities. A bit apprehensive where relationships are considered but willing to give it a shot if you are. Send letter and photo. Drawer G380.

OK, RASSLIN' FANS!

GWM 36, 5'5" 200 lbs, HAIRY CHEST, clean-shaven, U/C, in Toronto late November through December. Enjoy being chubby villian to thin to muscular opponents fantasy only, but as intense as you desire! Safe french, A/P, tits, oil! Photo, challenge to Box 138, DMS, 132 West 24th Street, New York NY 10011.

GWM, 36, 5'11", easy-going, educated, interested in meeting other similar guys for friendship/relationship, dark-haired, very hairy a plus. (J/O fun only.) Smokers okay. (416) 925-8448.

NICE EUROPEAN GUY (26) looking for friend/lover. Interests: music (Vollenweider, Glass); movies (Parting Glances) and quiet times. If you're into Harbourfront or plastic, forget it. Drawer G411.

ROMANCE IN YOUR HEART?

IS THERE AN HONEST, sensitive, intelligent and considerate person out there who wants to share his feelings and thoughts with someone who really cares? I've got a friend who's a real swell guy with a great sense of humour. He's a secure GWM professional, with everything going for him except a relationship. With his immense interest in theatre, minor interest in opera, and excellent facility for other intellectual pursuits he'd be quite a catch. Write to him c/o Drawer G412 and tell him Robbie told you to.

NICE REAL GUY

ATTRACTIVE GWM, 22, 5'6" 130 lbs dirty-blond hair, brown eyes, blond mustache, fit, nice warm body, friendly and easy-going, enjoy some sports, looking for similar 20-25 and 2-bdrm apartment, \$300/mo, negotiable, for lifetime friendship. Sex can be great, but we both look to find someone worthwhile. Photos helpful and returned. Reply in detail to Drawer G382.

40+ AND NOCTURNAL? Me too! Impecunious, long-haired, theatre technician, earringed, glasses, wonders if there's life after midnight. Recently separated after eight years of monogamy. 6' 175 lbs, smoker, seeks sophisticated, unpretentious friends. Drawer G398

GIVE A COLOUR PORTRAIT for Christmas. Phone Richard Plowright for an appointment. (416) 532-4380.

SPANK MY HOT BUNS

GWM, 31, 6' 180 lbs, seeks bare-bottom spanking from same, to age 45. Or let me tan yours. Phone and hot letter to Drawer G389.

PHOTO: ALLYSON MCLAUGHLIN



From 99% Cotton, a photo show by Allison McLaughlin at Bersani and Carlevale in The Atrium on Bay, 595 Bay St, Toronto. 595-0881. Opening Sunday December 14, 1986, 6-10pm. To January 17, 1987.

WOODSHED DISCIPLINE

Miss dad's strap? His spanking? The stern lecture? Men secretly yearn for that trip to dad's room. Think your attitude's bad? Did you screw up at work? Break a rule? Forget a chore? Need your ass whipped? Attitude adjusted? Tell dad what you need and make an appointment. (416) 537-8963 after 10:30 pm or write: 32 Roblocke Ave, Toronto ON M6G 3R7.

GWM, 45, 5'8" 145 LBS, CHRISTIAN background. Interests are theatre, dining, travel, seeks same, any race, under 35. Not into bars or baths. Drawer G385.

HARD-WORKING, PROFESSIONAL GWM 5'11" 160 lbs, brown hair and eyes, 36, seeking new friends for quiet times at home or a night at the movies. Drawer G391.

MALE COUPLE, 26 & 38, FROM BRANTFORD area wish to meet other gay couples for friendship only. Interests include dining out, movies, music, potluck dinners, pets and parties. Enjoy most things. Drawer G396.

GWM, 34, 5'8" 155 lbs, bright, bearded, balding, looking to expand my circle of friends, no particular agenda in mind. Varied interests. Seeking an alternative to bars. I ran this ad. Drop a line, we might both be glad you did. Drawer G390.

SLAVE, 34, 6', GOOD-LOOKING, needs serious ballwork, bondage, C/BT, T/T. You're 20-30, trim, dominant, clean. Phone, photo, details. Drawer G401.

GR/VIRGIN, ATTRACTIVE, 33, 6' 155 lbs, FR/A, seeks hot, horny guy(s) to (safely) loosen up my tight, unyielding hole, 21-35, healthy, trim, attractive. Photo, phone. Drawer G404.

MALE COUPLE IN GOOD physical condition seeks aggressive men. Interests include leather, uniforms. Drawer G405.

PHONE FANTASY

YOUNG HOT MALE seeks raunchy imaginative phone sex. All interests considered. Please write including phone number and fantasy. Drawer G402.

SAVE ME, SAVE MY PILLOW

GWM 41, FIRST TIME, likes serious books, most (but not *Much*) music, movies, meals, workouts. Not ugly, poor, crazy, dumb. Seeks same or different for friend and more if the accident will. Drawer G406.

P R I S O N E R S

PEN-PALS

A NOTE to prisoners who wish to have pen pals — Metropolitan Community Church is offering a pen-pal service to men and women prisoners through the church's prison ministry. Prison Ministry:, 2029 Gerrard St E, Toronto ON M4E 2B3.

BOOKS FOR PRISONERS

LEFT BANK BOOKS sponsors a Books For Prisoners project. Through donations and a postage grant we are able to send free miscellaneous books to inmates everywhere (provided an institution allows them). We offer special order books at cost (usually 35-40% off). Prisoners and other interested persons should write: Books For Prisoners, Box A, 92 Pike St, Seattle, WA 98101.

SOME OF THE INMATES living in Louisiana correctional institutes have been successful in obtaining money or material items from individuals living outside the institution. The inmates have done this by misrepresenting certain facts about themselves such as their age, sex, race, crime, release date, etc. These misrepresentations have been made through the mail or by telephone. Anyone wishing to learn the true status of a Louisiana inmate they are corresponding with prior to sending money or material items, please call (504) 342-6740 and ask for Mrs Goodes. You need not identify yourself to receive this information.

JOINT VENTURE

THE LARGEST PENPAL SERVICE for gays and bisexuals now has a 16-page brochure on how to find a prison penpal, what to do when that happens, what to send, what not to send, hot letters, pornography, financial rip-offs, emotional rip-offs, postal money order scams, visits, getting out, falling in love, who the inmate really is, and "why am I doing this?" The whole inside story is contained in our how-to booklet called *Dear Insider*. It is available with every Joint Venture membership subscription: three month trial, \$5; one year, \$15. Single copies are available for \$2. Joint Venture is a non-profit corporation. Write us at Box 26-8484, Chicago IL 60626.

PRISONERS MALE

SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK, 28, 1.72 meters, 60 kg, seeks correspondence from others in similar situation. Like reading magazines and writing letters. Write SIMON NKODI, c/o Pricilla Jana, PO Box 61875, Marshalltown 2107, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa.

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THE NIGHT BEFORE

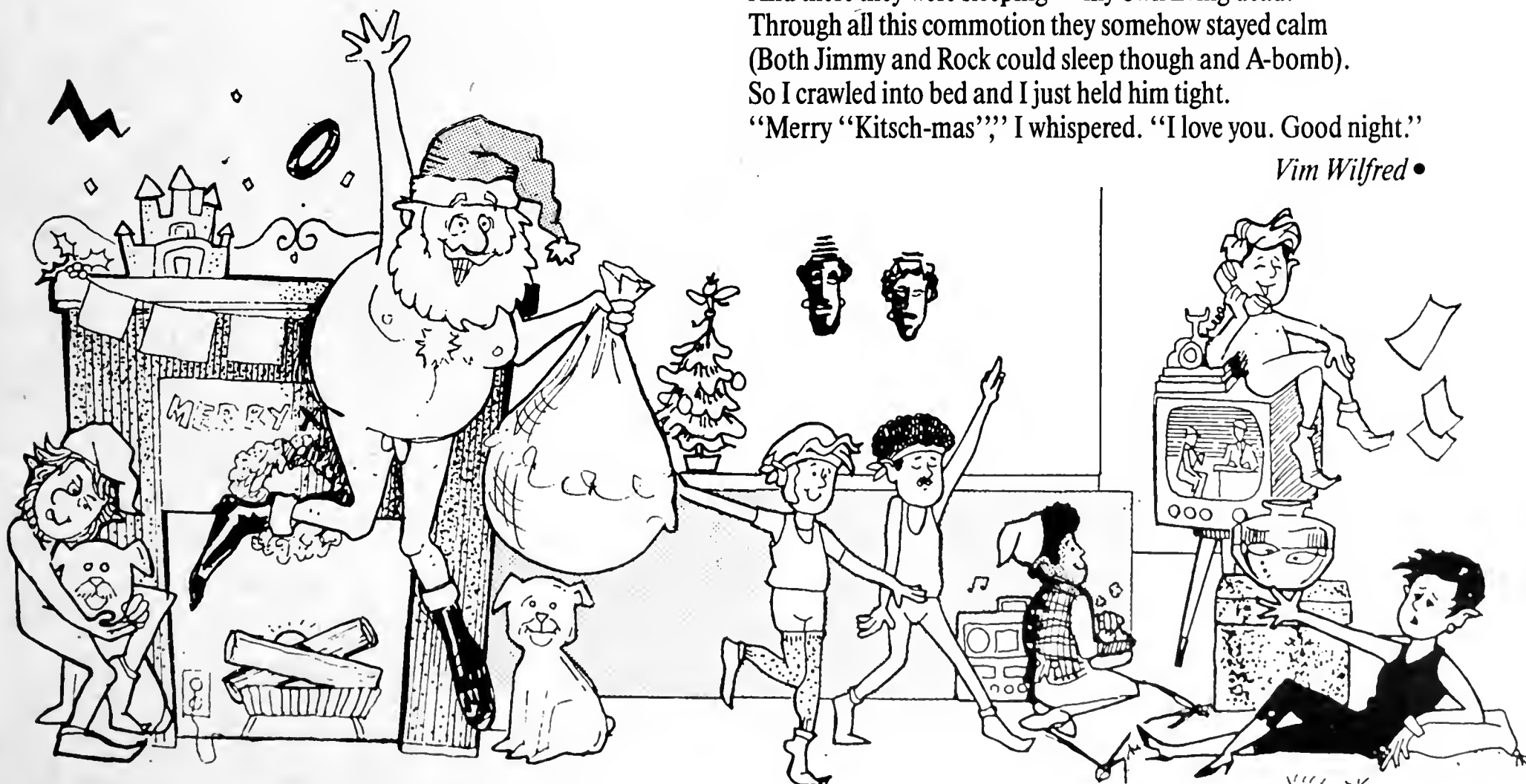
KITSCH-MAS

With profound apologies to Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Kitsch-mas, and all through the place
 Not a creature was stirring. There weren't the space!
 The fireplace (made from one lightbulb, two logs)
 Gave a Christmas-y glow to the Plasticine dogs.
 The Kitsch-mas tree sprayed down with pre-packaged snow
 Teetered close to old posters of closed Broadway shows
 And me in my flannel, and Jim in his jock
 Had fallen asleep with our Doberman Rock.
 When out in the hall there arose such a whine
 It must be that bimbo in room 309!
 Away to the doorway, I leaped with such grace
 Tripped over Rock's collar, and *smack!* on Jim's face.
 I kissed him to sleep and crept off by myself
 (Past those hideous art deco lamps on the shelf)
 When what to my wandering eye should I view
 But a half-naked man and his half-naked crew.
 I knew in a moment it must be St Nick,
 Looking wrinkled and grey — Hell and that was his dick!
 He whistled and shrieked and he called them by name;
 These chorus-line golden-boy extras from Fame.

"Now Danny! now, Leroy! now, Irving! now, Rudy!
 On, Lamda!, on, Alice! Get off the floor Judy!"
 They walked through my door like a Gay Pride Parade
 "And pivot. And ball-change. Now pataboré."
 They stood on the furniture, talked on the phone,
 They turned on the TV (watched Johnny, not Joan!)
 Then 'cross to our tree, St Nick came with a bound
 (past Leroy molesting our Plasticine hound)
 And from his large sack (made from brocade and net)
 He pulled out a sea-shell nativity set,
 A sand-castle sculpture, a souvenir tray,
 An original score from some off-Broadway play,
 A liquorice cockring, an African head,
 A fishbowl containing two goldfish (both dead).
 Then he winked at me, once. (He was trying to be quaint)
 But it's morally wrong to make out with a saint.
 So I nodded "no thanks." And he yelled for his camp,
 Who were having safe-sex with my art deco lamp.
 And laying his finger aside of his nose
 And giving a nod, off each other they rose.
 And away they all flew, dancing straight out the door:
 The fireplace broken, the tree on the floor.
 "I'll clean it tomorrow. I'm going to bed."
 And there they were sleeping — my own living dead.
 Through all this commotion they somehow stayed calm
 (Both Jimmy and Rock could sleep though and A-bomb).
 So I crawled into bed and I just held him tight.
 "Merry "Kitsch-mas";" I whispered. "I love you. Good night."

Vim Wilfred •



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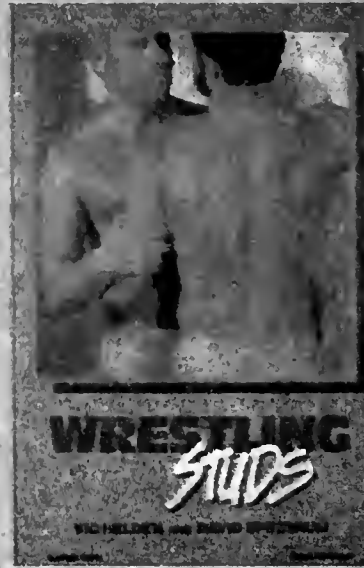
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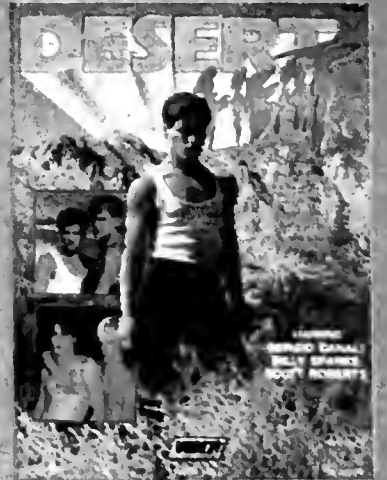
TOTALLY AWESOME 1985 84 min. Hey dudes! Skip and the gang want all you big boys to come down to the Valley. Like, for sure! These guys know where the beef is . . . and they serve it up, inch by sizzling inch! All ramrods, apply NOW!



DELIVERY BOYS 80 Min. Basic, real and raw! Getting off is the main objective. Acts of solo sleaze are balanced with man-to-man action that sucks and grips with sizzling wet shots. Close up penetration camera work gives this video a universal appeal. A sex drenched pumpathon, not to be missed!



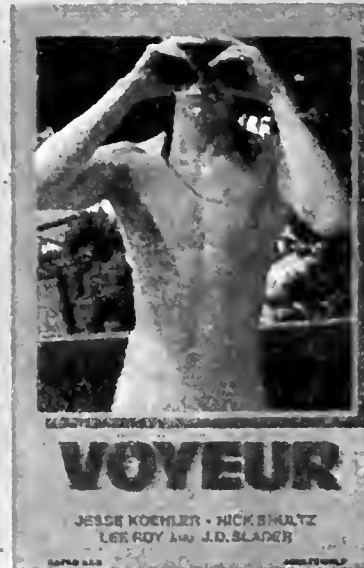
WRESTLING STUDS 1986 80 min. Stud wrestling permits tackling, tripping and every other hold, grip and grope necessary to get two hard men primed for a wad blowing experience! As in the arenas of old, our story begins with a challenge and explodes into action that lays male aggression bare.



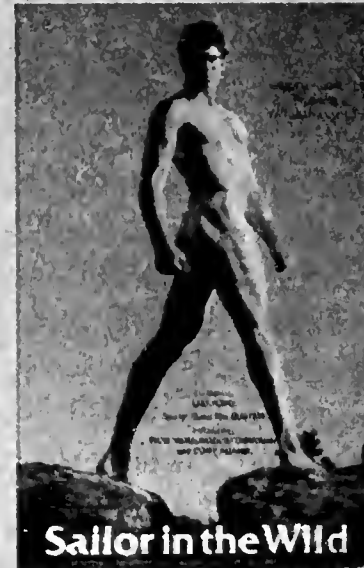
DESERT HEAT 1986 86 min. Eight young men embark on an invasion of Palm Springs. It happens every year, with hordes of young hunks on the lookout for fun and games. Lots of tight buns and fresh faces, with emphasis on doing it for the first time. Tons of steaming action with washboard stomachs, firm pec's and young butts!



NEW WAVE HUSTLERS 1985 87 min. The Doe Boy's hottest full length male pic x-poses Hollywood's hot, young, hung punks in heat! Newcomers to Sin City learn about big city sex life and street life faster than anyone could imagine. Join the boys as they cruise the Best in the West and discover how to fit in!



VOYEUR 1986 80 min. Blond stud Jesse Koehler plays a hot and horny voyeur who lives in the Hollywood Hills and uses his binoculars to watch his three tanned and toned neighbours get it up an off, together and apart in rim and ream action that ricochets with groin grinding power! A wad wringing riot!



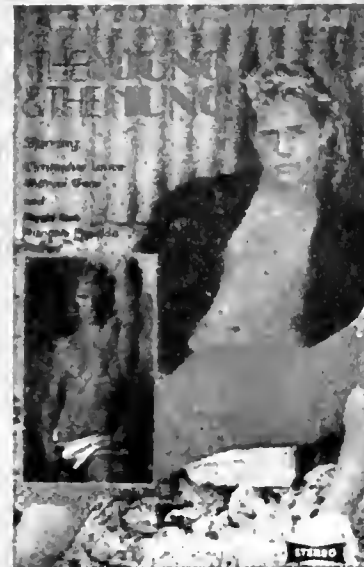
SAILOR IN THE WILD 1983 90 min. Shore leave turns into an unforgettable sex filled extravaganza as new comer Brian Thompson co-stars with fourteen measuring tape busting studs in William Higgins' hottest video. X-Rated Critics Association, Best Picture of the Year. WINNER, 1985 Gay Erotic Awards.



LONG JOHNS 1985 90 Min. Life as a hired hand on a ranch gives a new meaning to the term "Big Spread". Judd is a hard guy looking for a job, and after being broken in by Tanner, the ranch owner, looks like he just might get it! But Judd still has to get through his first night in the bunkhouse, where the action is non-stop.



POKER STUDS 1985 80 min. It's time to ante up as five good friends meet for a game of stud. All the boys have good hands . . . and the butts to match! This video is a must for shav-ing fans. The willing victim squirms under the blades of his three well hung friends, while he feeds on the meat of the fourth dangling over his face! "light, airy, spontaneous" 2 Stars, GAY VIDEO



THE YOUNG AND THE HUNG 1985 80 min. A cast of ultra handsome and well endowed young men. One look at Christopher Lance's boyish, blond features, or Michael Gere's southern charm and the 10 hard inches of Francois Papillon make it clear that this kind of talent has never before been assembled in one film. Of course, it's from William Higgins.



TUB STUDS 1985 80 min. Humpy locker room action . . . hard hitting group grope excitement! A no holds barred flesh party that takes some surprising turns without losing sight of it's goal: to get everyone off, via tool, tongue and canal! Man-to man lust beautifully portrayed. "Good strong camera work & editing. Treated with exceptional care." 2 Stars, GAY VIDEO



COUSINS 1984 85 min. There's a bond between kin that movie master William Higgins truly understands. The world's top male director proves that "kissing cousins" can do a lot more than kiss, and anything goes when 10-incredible newcomers bare all for the camera. Totally explicit, all guy stuff-fest! "Brilliant opening sequence, superb editing and photography" 2 Stars, GAY VIDEO.

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